URHI SHALMA?!
WHAT'S HE DOING *HERE?*

ILBANI, WHAT'S GOING ON?
DID YOU CAPTURE HIM?
WELL, THIS IS A SURPRISE.
WELCOME HOME, BROTHER.
HOW ON EARTH DID YOU—?
URHI IS SLIPPERIER THAN AN EEL!
YES, MA'AM.
ONE OF THE FEW WHO COULD CALL KAIL "BROTHER" IS...
"BROTHER"?

PRINCE JUDA!
BROTHER... I MEAN, YOUR MAJESTY...
...AND PRINCESS YURI.
I'M GLAD TO SEE YOU AGAIN. IT'S BEEN SUCH A LONG TIME!

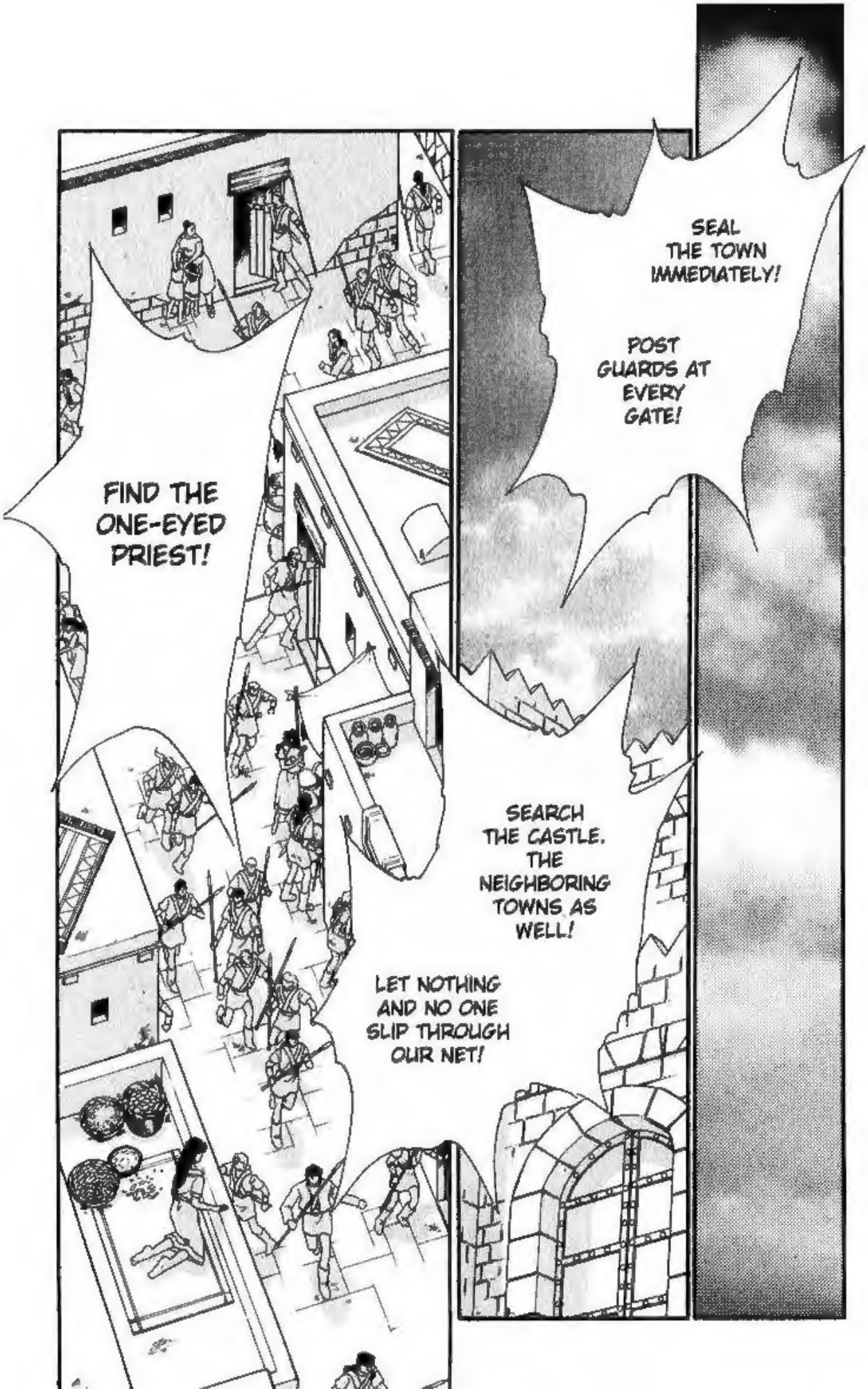
I'M UNDER NO INFLUENCE, PRINCESS YURI.
DON'T BE ALARMED!
HE MIGHT BE UNDER NAKIA'S CONTROL..
GASP
TUP
YES, IT HAS!
THANKS TO ILBANI, I'M MYSELF AGAIN.
I HOPE YOU'LL FORGIVE ME FOR THE TROUBLE I'VE CAUSED.
ILBANI...
JUDA MUST HAVE HELPED YOU...
...CAPTURE URHI. AM I RIGHT?

YES, YOUR MAJESTY.

INDEED, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA?
ILBANI WAS AMAZING!
OH, BIG SIS, YOU SHOULD HAVE SEEN IT!

HE PUT HIS PLAN INTO ACTION RIGHT AFTER YOU LEFT!
HE KNEW JUST WHAT TO DO TO CATCH URHI!

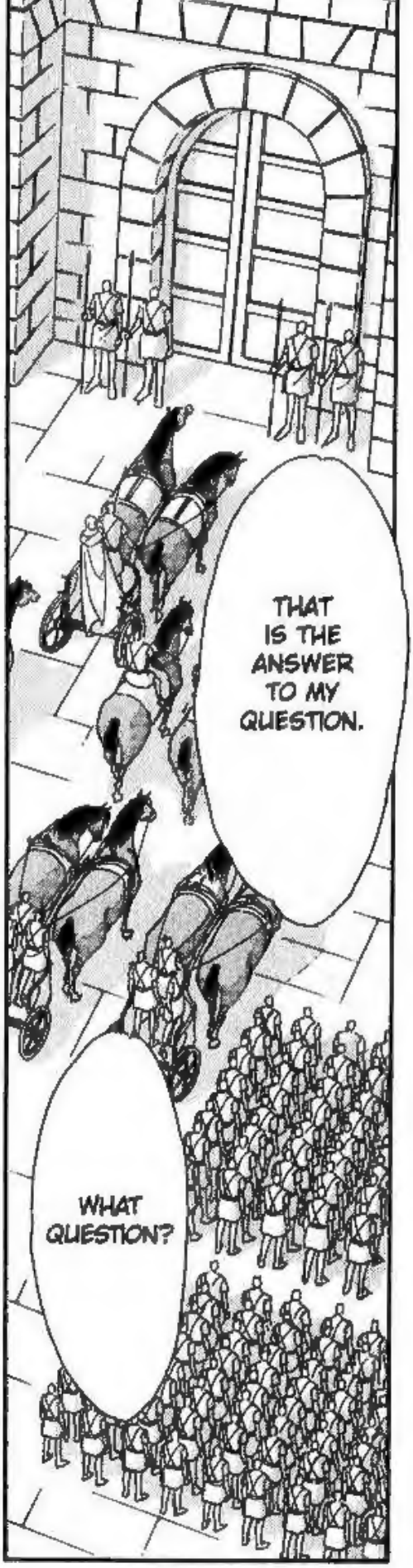
FOR MEN LIKE ME, THERE ARE OTHER METHODS.
"WIELDING A SWORD ISN'T ALL THERE IS TO FIGHTING AN ENEMY."


SEAL THE TOWN IMMEDIATELY!
POST GUARDS AT EVERY GATE!
FIND THE ONE-EYED PRIEST!
SEARCH THE CASTLE. THE NEIGHBORING TOWNS AS WELL!
LET NOTHING AND NO ONE SLIP THROUGH OUR NET!

URHI IS A CUNNING MAN. IT COULD BE VERY DIFFICULT TO TRAP HIM.
ILBANI...
WHAT'S YOUR PLAN?
WELL, SHALA...
URHI IS UNDOUBTEDLY HERE TO OBTAIN NAKIA'S INCRIMINATING LETTER.
HE MUST BE CAPTURED!
BUT KEEPING IT OUT OF HIS HANDS ISN'T ENOUGH.

...IF WE WANT TO LURE A FOX FROM HIS DEN...
...WE'LL NEED A RABBIT AS BAIT.
SO, WHO WILL BE OUR RABBIT?
SIR! I HAVE NEWS!
PRINCE JUDA AND THE KANESH TROOPS...
...HAVE JUST ARRIVED AT THE GATE!
WHAT?
PRINCE JUDA!
SURELY HE'S BEING CONTROLLED BY NAKIA!
GRIN

IT'S MY GREAT PLEASURE TO WELCOME YOU, PRINCE JUDA.
YOU'VE ARRIVED AT THE PERFECT TIME.
...


THAT IS THE ANSWER TO MY QUESTION.
WHAT QUESTION?

ILBANI, I DEMAND TO KNOW WHY...
I'M GRATEFUL YOU TROUBLED TO COME ALL THIS WAY.
...AND MADE OUR ARMY WAIT BEYOND THE GATE!
...YOU'VE ONLY ALLOWED THE TWO OF US INSIDE...
IT'S DISRESPECTFUL!
WHO IS THAT GUY?
PRINCE JUDA WAS UNDERAGE WHEN HE WAS APPOINTED MAYOR OF KANESH...
...SO THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ASSIGNED BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN ADVISORS TO HIM.
GENERAL HUBASHA, PRINCE JUDA'S MILITARY ADVISOR.

WHAT?!
CLAP
CLAP
I UNDER-STAND.
BUT IT WAS NECESSARY, AS YOU WILL SEE.
?!
SH
F
F
YOUR HIGHNESS!
THESE SOLDIERS ARE MY PERSONAL GUARDS.
THEY OBEY ONLY ME.
YANK

PRINCE JUDA, FORGIVE ME.
MP
WHO
ILBANI! HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND?!
YOU'VE STRUCK A PRINCE OF THE REALM!
BUT... BUT THIS IS TOO MUCH!
STRIKING A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY IS A SERIOUS CRIME...
NOW I UNDERSTAND ILBANI'S PLAN. HE'S TRYING TO FORCE NAKIA'S BLACK WATER OUT OF PRINCE JUDA'S BODY.

IN THAT CASE...
THAT WASN'T ENOUGH?
STOP!
GRAB
KOFF
KOFF
KOFF
GLUG.
GLUG
GLUG
URGH!

ILBANI!
HE MUST BE MADE TO DRINK.
HOLD HIM DOWN.
I CAN'T BELIEVE HIS MAJESTY WOULD ALLOW SUCH HORRIFIC BEHAVIOR!
I CAN ONLY THINK YOU HAVE GONE MAD!
GLUB
GLUB
GLUB
BANG
ILBANI!

GASP
...IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE KING AND THE EMPIRE!
PLEASE STAY OUT OF THIS, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA!
I AM NOT DOING THIS UNDER HIS MAJESTY'S ORDERS. I AM ACTING ON MY OWN AUTHORITY...
SHALA! GET HER OUT OF HERE!

KEEP GOING.
PRINCE JUDA!
OH MY...
OH, ILBAN!
IF PRINCE JUDA DOESN'T COME BACK TO HIS SENSES, ILBAN! WILL PAY DEARLY FOR HIS ACTIONS!
PRINCE JUDA IS A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY. NOT EVEN HIS MAJESTY IS PERMITTED TO TOUCH HIM.

BARF!
KOFI!
STOP... CAN'T BREATHE...
AWK!
GLUG
UGH!
GULP GULP GULP

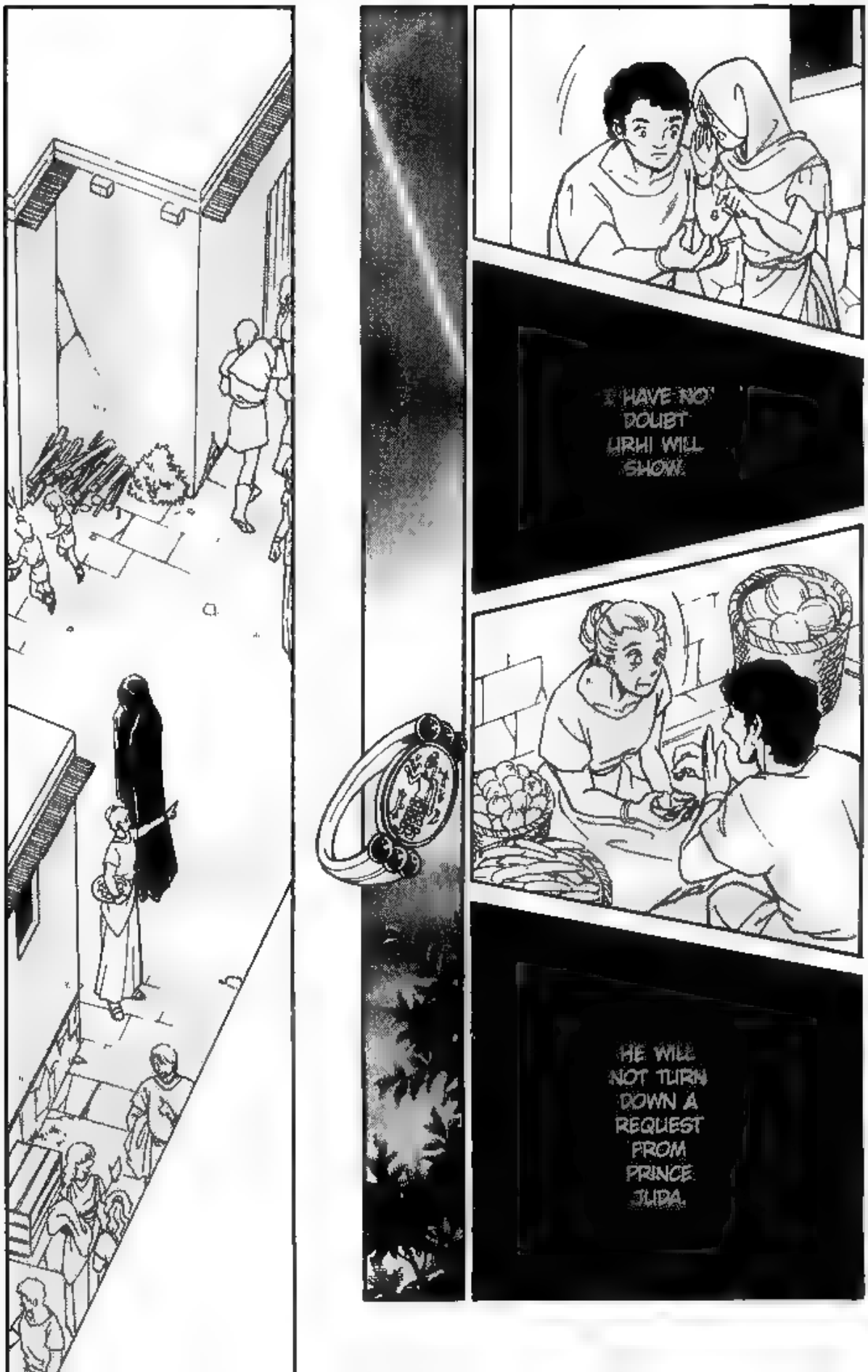
HUFF
HUFF
BARF
KOFF
BARF
PANT
PANT
PANT

WHERE... AM I...
HUFF
HUFF
HUFF
YOUR HIGHNESS!
HUH?
PRINCE JUDA.
DO YOU KNOW WHO I AM?

DO YOU REMEMBER MOVING FROM HATTUSA TO KANESH AND THAT YOU ARE NOW IN UGARIT?
DO YOU UNDER-STAND WHAT HAS HAPPENED TO YOU?
VERY GOOD.
YES... YOU'RE ILBANI...
YES... I REMEM-BER.
I UNDERSTAND THAT...
...I'VE BEEN UNDER MY MOTHER'S SPELL.
YOUR HIGHNESS?!
HE'S HIMSELF AGAIN!

YOU WERE RECENTLY CONTACTED BY URHI SHALMA, WEREN'T YOU?
CORRECT, YOUR HIGHNESS.
YES, I WAS!
THE NIGHT BEFORE I ARRIVED IN UGARIT, HE SHOWED UP AT MY CHAMBERS!
I DIDN'T KNOW THAT...
YOUR HIGH-NESS...
WOULD YOU BE WILLING TO HELP US CAPTURE HIM?

I MUST SEE YOU.
PLEASE MEET ME.
JUDA HASUPASULUPI
OH YES...
IN THAT CASE...
...WILL YOU PLEASE LEND ME YOUR SEAL?
HERE.


I HAVE NO DOUBT URHI WILL SHOW.
HE WILL NOT TURN DOWN A REQUEST FROM PRINCE JUDA.

SQUEAK
CHATTER
CHATTER
CHATTER

I'M SORRY, URHI.
...A DANGEROUS PLACE TO MEET.
THIS BAR IS...
NO, THANK YOU. I HAVE BUSINESS ELSEWHERE.
GOOD EVENING, SIR.
WOULD YOU LIKE TO HEAR A SONG?
KLANK

OH, DO STAY AWHILE AND ENJOY YOURSELF...
...URHI SHALMA.
ILBANI?!
KLANK
ZHF

ALL OF YOU ARE HITTITE SOLDIERS?!

THAT'S VERY INTERESTING.
BA-BUMP
...KNOWS EVERYTHING ABOUT NAKIA'S TREACHERY. AND NOW WE'VE GOT HIM!
ILBANI TOOK A REAL RISK, BUT WOW!...
BA-BUMP
BA-BUMP

URHI SHALMA, LISTEN TO ME. I'M PREPARED...
...TO GRANT YOU IMMUNITY FROM PROSECUTION IN RETURN FOR YOUR TESTIMONY AGAINST...
...THE QUEEN DOWAGER. DO YOU AGREE?

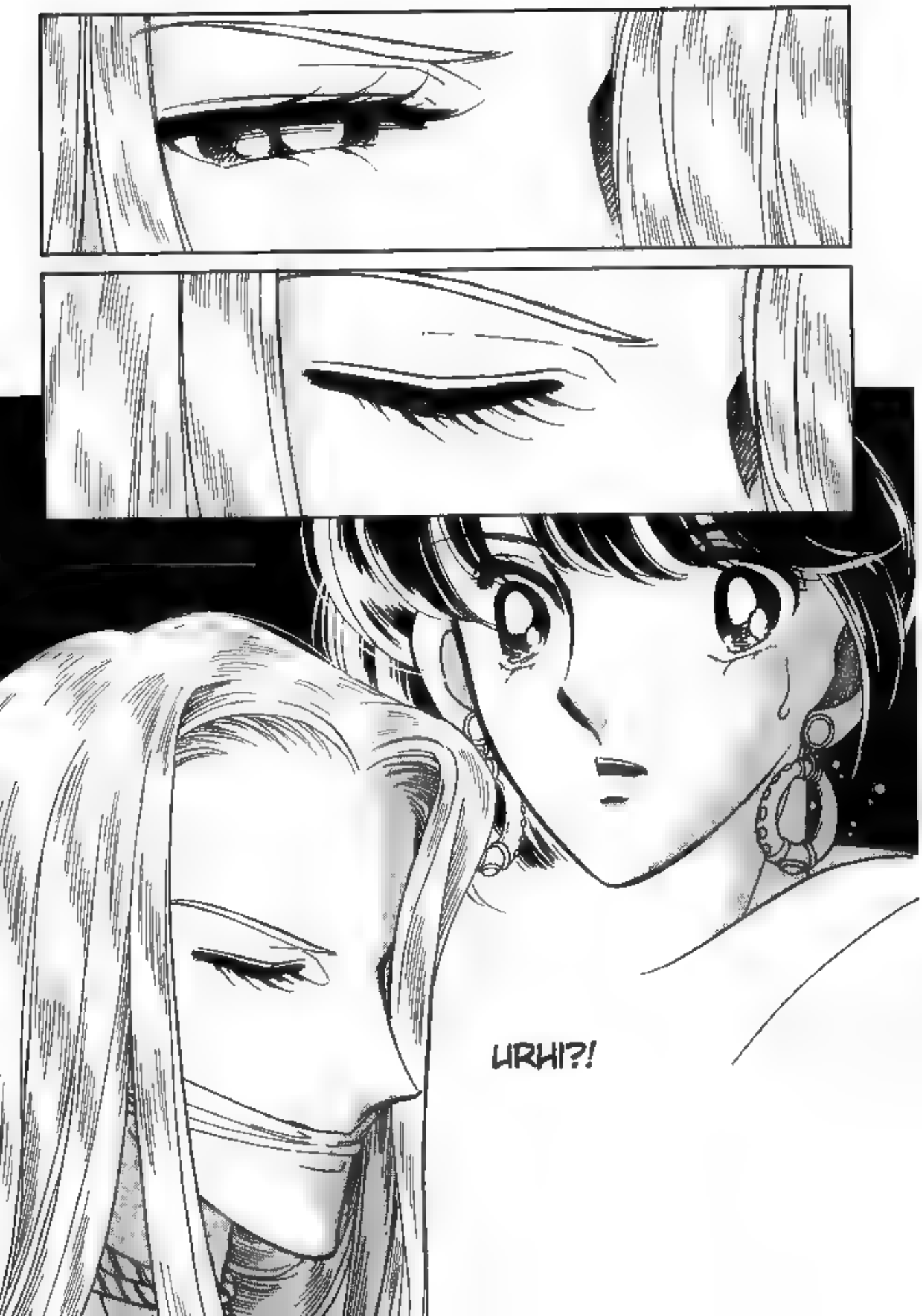
IF WE CAN ADD UIRHI'S TESTIMONY TO THE LETTER I BROUGHT BACK FROM EGYPT...
...THAT'LL STRENGTHEN THE CASE AGAINST NAKIA. SHE'LL BE STUCK!
I'LL ASK YOU AGAIN...
WILL YOU TESTIFY AGAINST QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA?

YOU AGREE?
NOD
NOD
THEN LET'S...
...HEAR WHAT HE HAS TO SAY!
PRINCESS YURI, WAIT!
GASP

WHAT?!
REMOVE THAT GAG...
...AND HE WILL BITE HIS TONGUE.
...TO KILL HIMSELF THREE TIMES.
SINCE WE CAPTURED HIM, HE HAS TRIED...
THAT IS SO, YOUR MAJESTY.
I KNOW YOU WELL, ILBANI.
...AND DID NOT RESTRAIN YOURSELF IN YOUR METHODS.
I TRUST YOU INTERRO-GATED URHI...

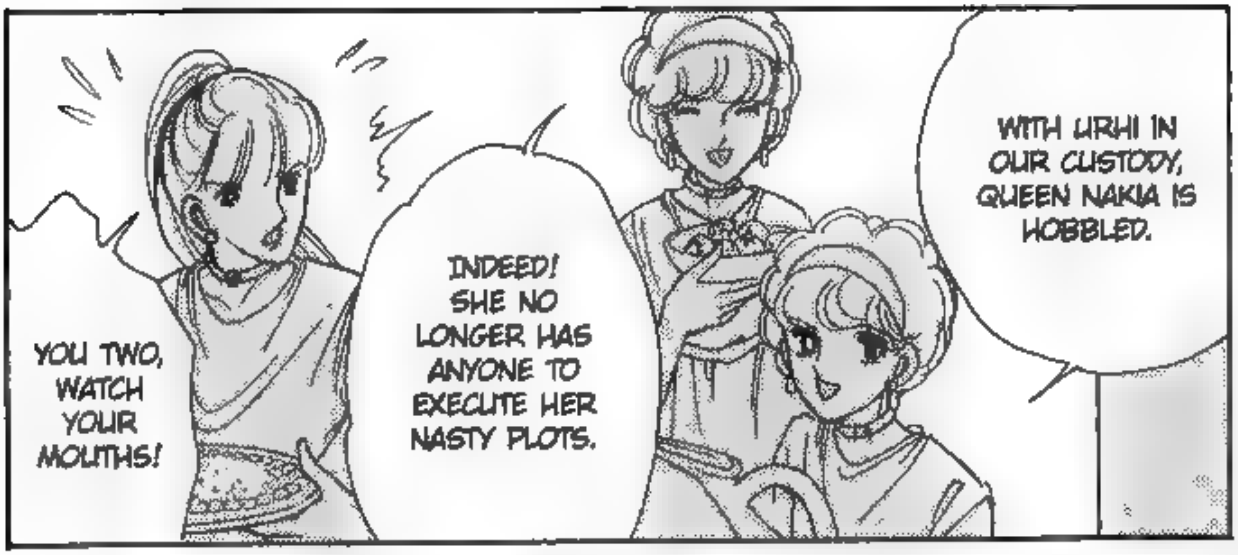
THAT'S WHAT'S KINDA SCARY!
URHI DOESN'T SEEM ANY THE WORSE FOR WEAR.
MY APOLOGIES, YOUR MAJESTY.
BUT IT WAS NOT ENOUGH TO EXTRACT A CONFES-SION.
IF HE DOESN'T WANT TO TALK, THAT'S FINE.
URHI! YOU ONLY PRETENDED TO AGREE TO TESTIFY SO YOU'D HAVE A CHANCE TO KILL YOURSELF?
WHY WON'T YOU SPEAK AGAINST NAKIA?!
WHY?

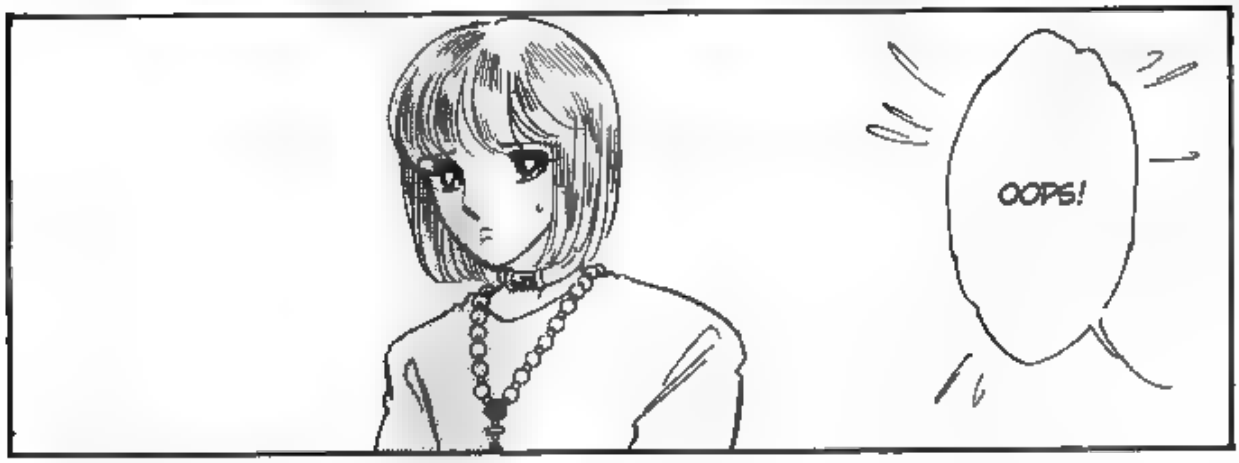
WHETHER HE TESTIFIES OR NOT...
...HE IS STILL A SUSPECT IN THE ASSASSINATION OF HIS HIGHNESS ARNUWANDA II.
ALSO, WE HAVE HIM FOR KIDNAPPING AND ATTEMPTING TO MURDER YOU.
THESE ARE CAPITAL OFFENSES.
HIS HIGHNESS IS OFFERING TO SPARE YOUR LIFE!
TESTIFY AGAINST NAKIA AND YOU WILL NOT BE PROSECUTED.
URHI, DO YOU REALLY WISH TO DIE?


URHI?!

I AM SO SORRY, YOUR MAJESTY.
NOT ONLY DID I CAUSE YOU TROUBLE, I DIDN'T ASSIST YOU IN THE WAR AGAINST EGYPT.
THAT'S ENOUGH, JUDA.
COME JOIN US FOR A DRINK.

IT WAS ALL ILBANI'S DOING!
I JUST DID AS HE ASKED!
YOU DID US A GREAT SERVICE BY HELPING TO CAPTURE URHI.
...AND IF YOU HADN'T, URHI WOULD LIKELY STILL BE FREE.
I KNOW WHAT YOU DID...
...PRINCE JUDA IS THE ONLY YOUNGER BROTHER KAIL HAS LEFT.
I'M SO GLAD HE SIDES WITH US AND NOT HIS MOTHER!
WITH THE DEATHS OF PRINCE ZANNANZA AND PRINCE MALI...


WITH URHI IN OUR CUSTODY, QUEEN NAKIA IS HOBBLED.
INDEED! SHE NO LONGER HAS ANYONE TO EXECUTE HER NASTY PLOTS.
YOU TWO, WATCH YOUR MOUTHS!


OOPS!

I WONDER WHAT SCHEME QUEEN NAKIA HAD IN MIND WHEN SHE SENT PRINCE JUDA TO UGARIT.
I KNOW WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE.
IT'S ALL RIGHT.

I COULDN'T SAY, BUT...
...URHI HAS SHOWN UP AT MY PALACE IN KANESH FROM TIME TO TIME TO FORWARD MY MOTHER'S "WORDS" TO ME.
WHILE I WAS UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF MOTHER'S BLACK WATER, THINGS WERE FUZZY.
BUT I WAS STILL AWARE OF WHAT WAS GOING ON.
DO YOU MIND IF I ACCOMPANY YOU TO HATTUSA?
PLEASE, BROTHER!
I KNOW I'M EXPECTED TO RETURN TO KANESH...
...BUT I HAVE MY REASONS.
DO AS YOU WISH, JUDA.

I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
WHAT DID URHI HOPE TO GAIN...
...BY DOING NAKIA'S BIDDING?
IF THE QUEEN DOWAGER GAINED CONTROL OF THE EMPIRE, URHI WOULD CLEARLY BENEFIT.
HE WANTED ACCESS TO POWER AND WEALTH! THAT'S WHY HE DID WHAT HE DID.
THAT'S OBVIOUS, PRINCESS YURI.

YOU'RE PROBABLY RIGHT.
BUT I KEEP THINKING...
...THERE MUST BE MORE TO IT.
CAN ANY REWARD BE WORTH THE SACRIFICES HE'S MADE?

IN ANY CASE, WE WILL SETTLE THIS MATTER IN HATTUSA.
I IMAGINE THE NEWS OF OUR VICTORY HAS REACHED THE CAPITAL BY NOW. WE SHOULD RECEIVE QUITE A TRIUMPHAL GREETING.

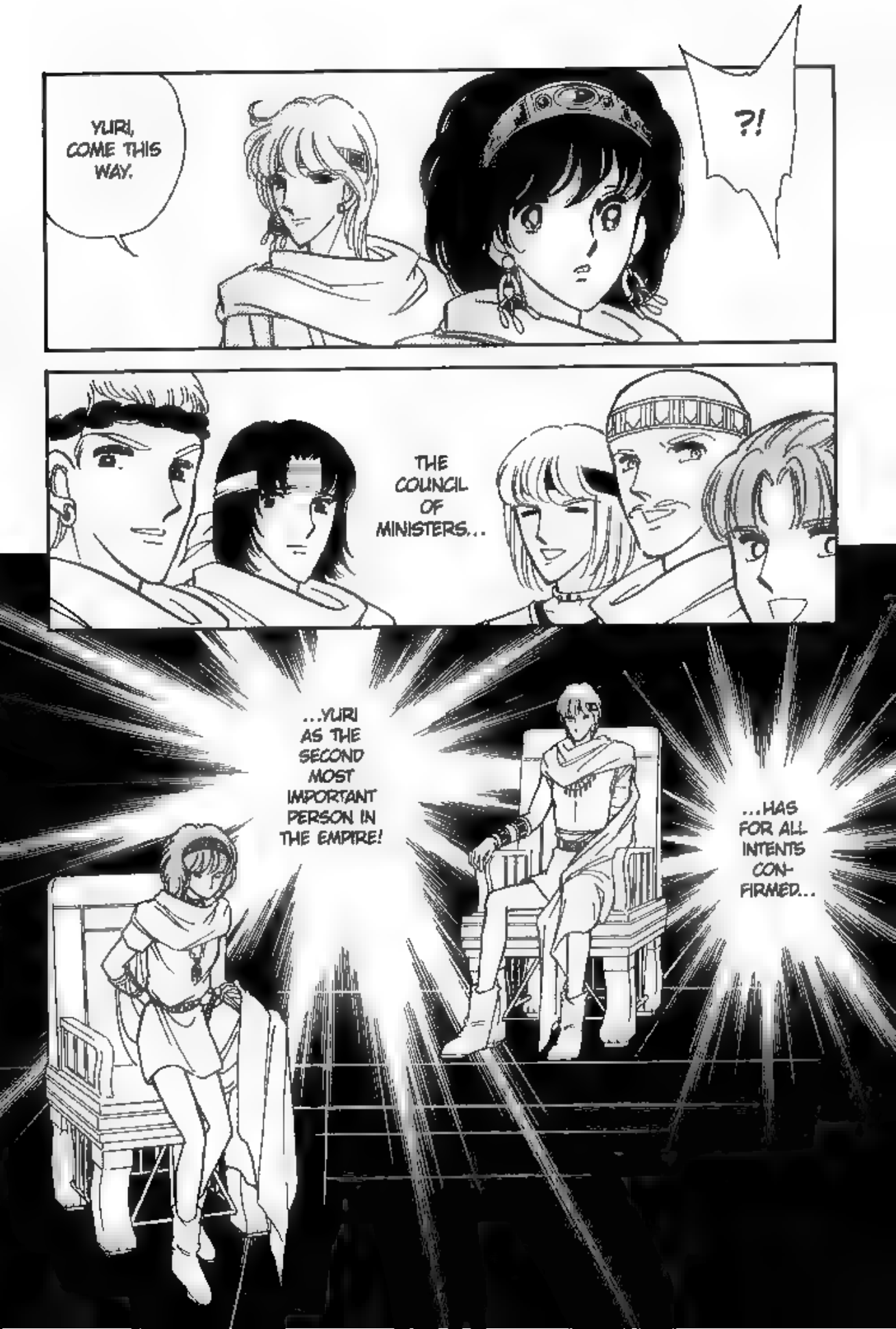
HATTUSA! AT LONG LAST!

IT'S A GREAT DAY FOR THE HITTITE EMPIRE!
HURRAH FOR ISHTAR!
LONG LIVE HIS MAJESTY KAIL MURSILI!
RAH
ROAR
HATTUSA, THE HITTITE CAPITAL...
ROAR
ROAR

RAH
RAH
YOUR MAJESTY, ISHTAR...
MY CONGRATULATIONS ON YOUR SUCCESS.
THANK YOU, CHAIRMAN AYGIL.
...AT THE PALACE. WE HAVE PREPARED A CELEBRATORY BANQUET IN HONOR OF YOUR RETURN.
AFTER YOU REPORT YOUR VICTORY AT THE TEMPLE, I HOPE YOU WILL JOIN US...
RAH
RAOH
RAH

THANK YOU.
YOUR MAJESTY! OUR CONGRATULATIONS TO YOU ON YOUR VICTORY IN THE WAR WITH EGYPT!
NAKIA'S SEAT IS EMPTY. I THOUGHT SHE'D BE HERE BY NOW.
EXCUSE ME, ISHTAR. PLEASE SIT OVER HERE.
HUH?
SHF

!!
BUT... THAT SEAT IS CLOSEST TO HIS MAJESTY!
ISN'T IT FOR THE QUEEN DOWAGER ?!
QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA HASN'T BEEN ATTENDING PUBLIC EVENTS LATELY.


YURI, COME THIS WAY.
?!
THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS...
...YURI AS THE SECOND MOST IMPORTANT PERSON IN THE EMPIRE!
...HAS FOR ALL INTENTS CON-FIRMED...

YOU'RE QUIET TODAY.
DO YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT'S ON YOUR MIND?
KAIL.

I HEARD URHI'S BEEN REFUSING FOOD AND WATER SINCE HIS ARREST.
I WONDER IF MONEY AND POWER ARE TRULY HIS MOTIVATIONS.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
...IF NAKIA AND URHI HAVE A... SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP.
I'VE BEEN WONDERING ALL THIS TIME...
HA HA...
WHAT AN IDEA!
WHY?
YOU MEN THINK MONEY AND POWER ARE ALL THAT MOTIVATE PEOPLE, BUT...
IT'S NOT LIKELY, YURI.

?!
IMAGINE SOMEONE CAUGHT YOU...
...HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH ILBANI. WHAT DO YOU THINK WOULD HAPPEN?
WITH ILBANI? I CAN'T IMAGINE SUCH A THING!
Neither can I.
IT'S ONLY AN EXAMPLE.
MY POINT IS, IF A KING'S CONCUBINE WERE CAUGHT HAVING AN AFFAIR WITH ANOTHER MAN...

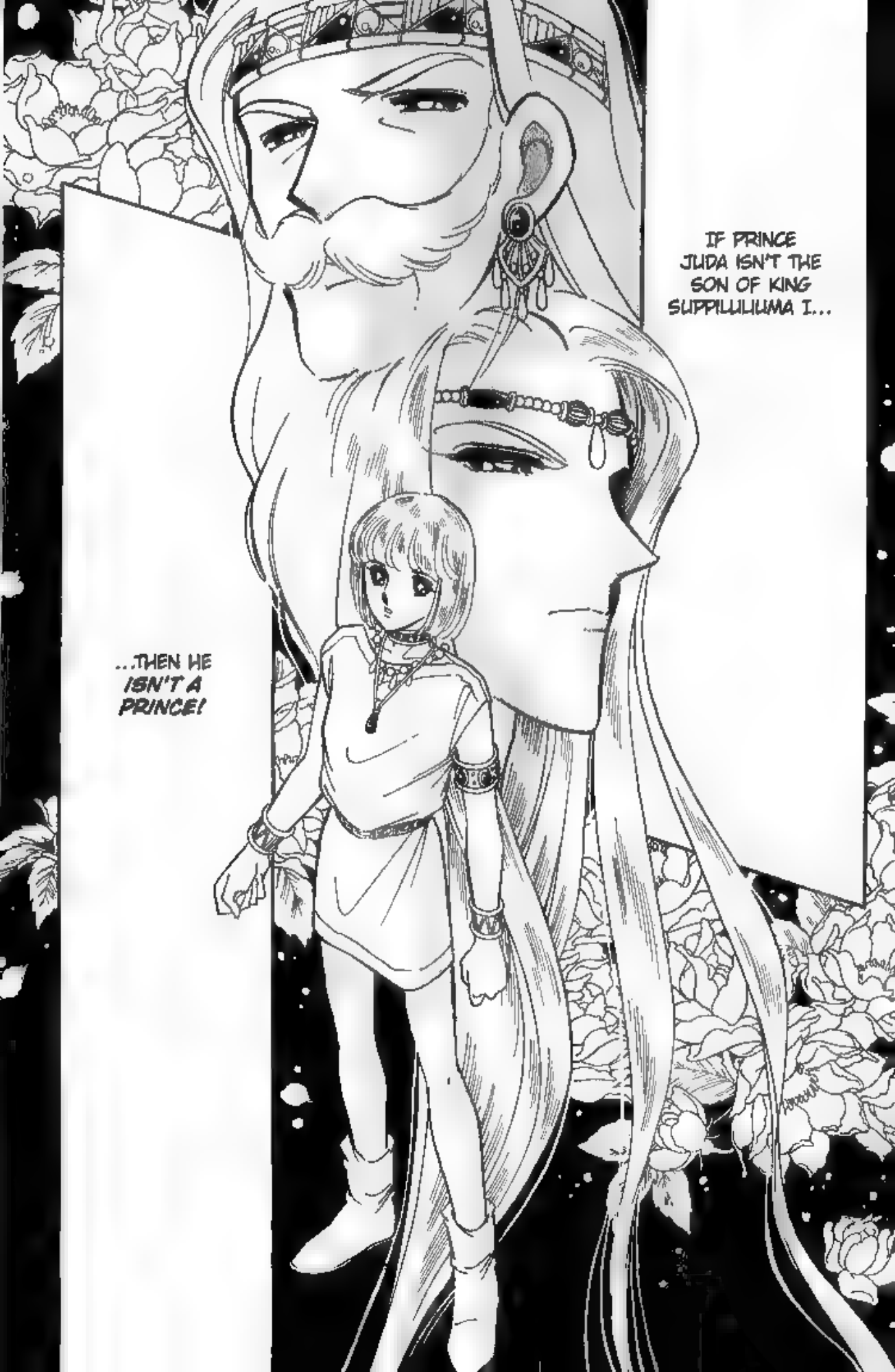
OH...
BUT FALLING IN LOVE ISN'T ABOUT CALCULATING RISK. IT'S FROM THE HEART!
I'D RATHER WE DISCUSSED *OUR* LOVE, YURI.
CLICK
WAIT, KAIL...
...THERE'S NO DOUBT THAT BOTH OF THEM WOULD BE EXECUTED.
NOT EVEN THE KING'S FORGIVENESS WOULD SAVE THEM.
NAKIA AND URHI ARE JOINED BY THEIR OBSESSION WITH ENTHRONING JUDA. THEY AREN'T FOOLISH ENOUGH TO RISK THEIR LIVES BY ALSO FALLING IN LOVE.

...

...I CAN'T STOP WONDERING ABOUT NAKIA AND URHI.
KAIL AVOIDED MY QUESTION LAST NIGHT, BUT...
WHAT'S GOING ON?
EVERYONE'S SAYING IT.
THAT DOESN'T MEAN IT'S WORTH REPEATING!
WHAT? THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
THEY SHOULDN'T BE FORGIVEN THEIR ACTIONS, NO MATTER WHAT, BUT...

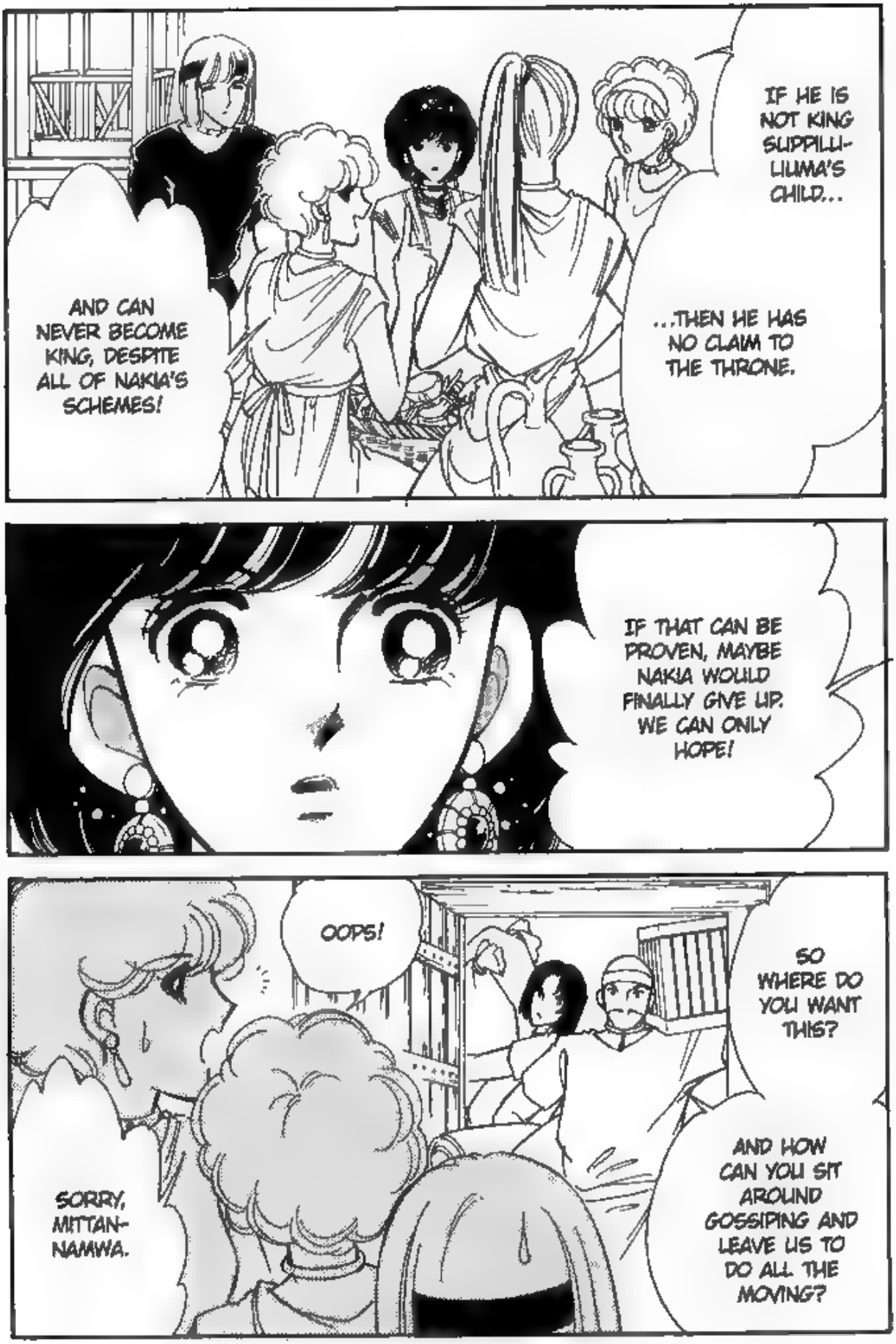
SHALA, HUSH!
PRINCESS YURI DOESN'T NEED TO HEAR SILLY COURT GOSSIP!
OH, PRINCESS YURI! THERE'S A STORY THAT'S BEEN SPREADING AMONG THE COURT LADIES.
YES I DO!
I DON'T WANT ANYTHING KEPT FROM ME.
IT'S JUST A RUMOR, BUT...
...PEOPLE ARE SAYING PRINCE JUDA MAY NOT BE KING SUPPILULIUMA I'S CHILD.
WHAT? IF PRINCE JUDA ISN'T HIS CHILD...
...THEN WHOSE CHILD IS HE?

WELL...
ACCORDING TO THE RUMOR...
...PRINCE JUDA IS URHI'S SON.


IF PRINCE JUDA ISN'T THE SON OF KING SUPPILULIUMA I...
...THEN HE ISN'T A PRINCE!

THAT CAN'T BE RIGHT!
OH, THAT OLD THING.
IT'S BEEN FLOATING AROUND FOR A WHILE.
IS THAT SO?!
PEOPLE USED TO TALK ABOUT IT ALL THE TIME.
YEAH... IT'S OLD ENOUGH TO GROW WHISKERS.

WELL, THE QUEEN DOWAGER EVENTUALLY BECAME SO POWERFUL...
...THAT NO ONE DARED TALK ABOUT IT IN PUBLIC ANYMORE.
I NEVER HEARD IT!
PEOPLE WEREN'T AFRAID TO GOSSIP ABOUT HER THEN.
BUT AT THE TIME PRINCE JUDA WAS BORN...
...QUEEN NAKIA WAS MERELY ONE OF THE KING'S CONCUBINES.
AND PRINCE JUDA'S STRIKING BLOND HAIR AND FEATURES...
...ARE QUITE SIMILAR TO URHI'S.

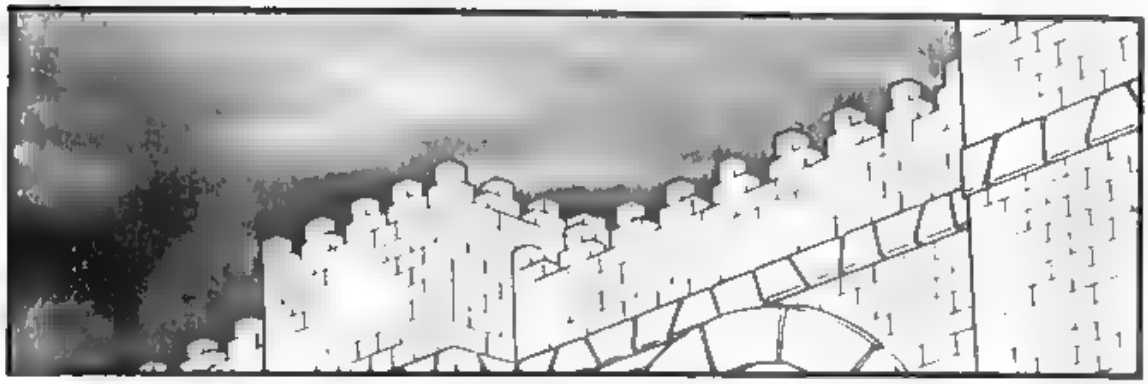

IF HE IS NOT KING SUPPILU-LIUMA'S CHILD...
...THEN HE HAS NO CLAIM TO THE THRONE.
AND CAN NEVER BECOME KING, DESPITE ALL OF NAKIA'S SCHEMES!
IF THAT CAN BE PROVEN, MAYBE NAKIA WOULD FINALLY GIVE UP. WE CAN ONLY HOPE!
OOPS!
SO WHERE DO YOU WANT THIS?
SORRY, MITTAN-NAMWA.
AND HOW CAN YOU SIT AROUND GOSSIPING AND LEAVE US TO DO ALL THE MOVING?

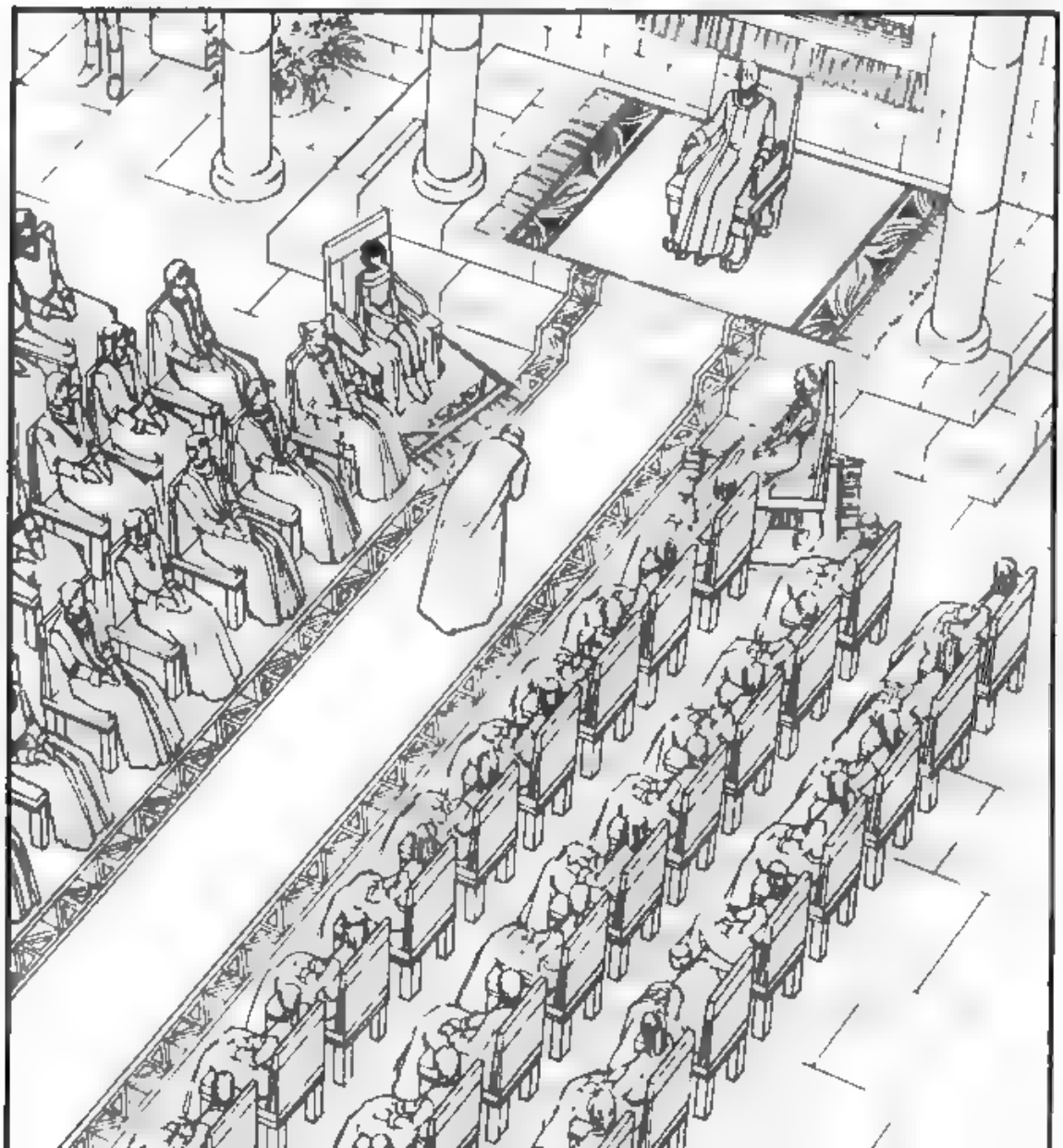
KNOCK
KNOCK
ARE YOU BUSY, KAIL?
MIND IF I COME IN?
YURI... OF COURSE, PLEASE DO.
BUT HOW WOULD KAIL FEEL?
IT'S TRUE. IF PRINCE JUDA IS NOT THE SON OF A KING, HE HAS NO CLAIM TO THE THRONE NO MATTER WHAT NAKIA DOES TO PUT HIM THERE.
HE LOVES PRINCE JUDA AS A BROTHER... A TRUE BROTHER.

THINGS GET DONE QUICKLY WHEN YOU HAVE TWO WIVES.
UH-HUH...
DID KIKKURI FINISH MOVING INTO HIS NEW HOME?
DID SOME-ONE TELL YOU ABOUT IT?
KAIL... YOU'RE AWARE OF THE RUMOR...
...ABOUT PRINCE JUDA, RIGHT?
DON'T BELIEVE IT, YURI. JUDA MAY RESEMBLE URHI, BUT THAT'S NOT SO SURPRISING.
OUR GRANDMOTHER, KING SUPPILULILIMA'S MOTHER, CAME FROM A KINGDOM IN THE NORTH.
JUDA'S FEATURES ARE QUITE TYPICAL OF THAT REGION.

HUG
IF IT'S PROVEN HE'S NOT YOUR BROTHER, THE SUCCESSION PROBLEM WOULD BE SOLVED.
BUT HE *IS* MY BROTHER.

WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THAT'S NOT A GOOD THING?
WUP
WOOPS!
PARDON ME...
I EXPECT HER REMOVAL FROM THE THRONE WILL BE MADE OFFICIAL.
THE DATE FOR THE NEXT COUNCIL MEETING HAS BEEN SET. THE MINISTERS PLAN TO INTERROGATE QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA AT THAT TIME.
AYGIL SAID SHE HASN'T BEEN ATTENDING RECENT PUBLIC EVENTS...
...YET, SURPRISINGLY, SHE HAS AGREED TO ATTEND THIS ONE.





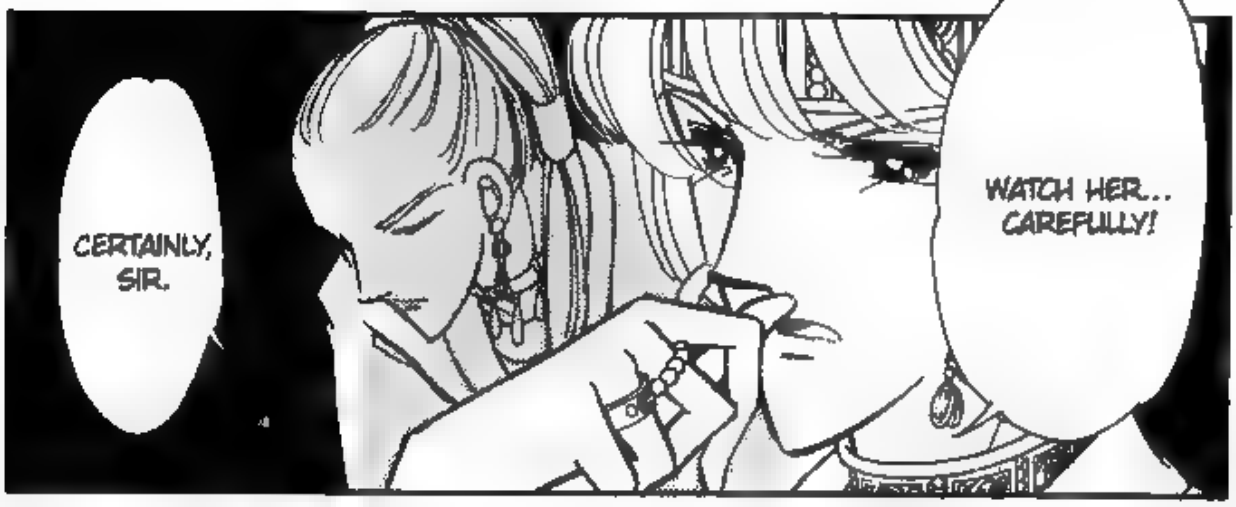
...QUEEN DOWAGER NEFERTITI OF EGYPT HAS BEEN PLACED UNDER HOUSE ARREST.
YOUR HIGHNESS, I SHOULD POINT OUT AT THIS TIME THAT...
THIS LETTER YOU SENT INDICATES THAT.
SHE IS CHARGED WITH HAVING PASSED STATE SECRETS TO EGYPT'S ENEMIES.
YOUR HIGHNESS, WE BELIEVE THAT YOU'VE BEEN RECEIVING INFORMATION FROM NEFERTITI...
...AND HAVE BEEN PASSING OUR STATE SECRETS TO HER AS WELL.

I HAVE NOTHING TO EXPLAIN.
I HAVE NO IDEA WHAT YOU ARE TALKING ABOUT.
IF TRUE, YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU HAVE COMMITTED TREASON! THE WORST KIND OF FELONY!
WOULD YOU CARE TO EXPLAIN...
...YOUR ACTIONS TO THE COUNCIL?

AND YET YOU CLAIM NO KNOWLEDGE OF THIS LETTER?!
YOUR HIGHNESS! THIS IS CLEARLY YOUR SEAL!
THAT IS CORRECT.
KLANK
KLANK
WE DEMAND TO KNOW WHY YOU PROVIDED THIS INFORMATION TO OUR ENEMY!
YOUR HIGHNESS! THIS LETTER CONTAINS MILITARY PLANS...
...AND OTHER CLASSIFIED INFORMATION!
I REPEAT, I KNOW NOTHING OF THIS.

YOUR HIGHNESS! HAVE YOU FORGOTTEN YOU ARE TAWANANNA?
THAT WE'VE SUPPORTED YOU ALL THESE YEARS?
THAT YOU ARE THE SECOND MOST POWERFUL FIGURE IN THIS GOVERN-MENT?
I HAVE DONE NO SUCH THING.
BUZZ
BUZZ
BUZZ
WHY HAVE YOU BETRAYED YOUR COUNTRY?!
WHAT IS NAKIA DOING?
SHE CAN'T JUST KEEP PLAYING DUMB!
I CAN SEE WHY SHE DOESN'T WANT TO ADMIT SHE COMMITTED TREASON, BUT THEN WHY BE HERE AT ALL?

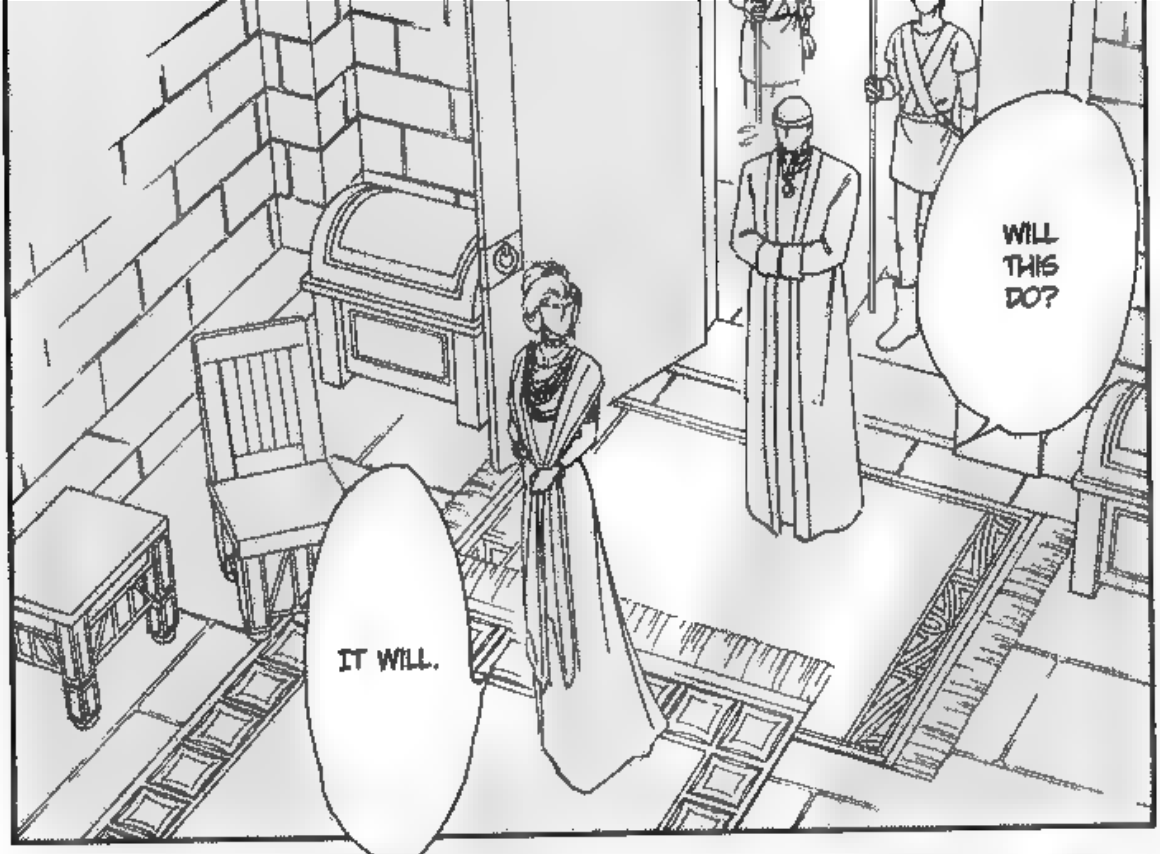
I URGE YOU, YOUR HIGHNESS, TO RECONSIDER YOUR SITUATION AND COOPERATE WITH OUR INVESTIGATION.
THIS IS GETTING US NOWHERE.
WE'LL RECESS UNTIL THIS AFTERNOON.
ILBANI...
I THOUGHT SHE'D TRY TO CONVINCE THE COUNCIL OF HER INNOCENCE, BUT SHE SHOWS NO INTEREST IN THE MATTER.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT HER PLAN IS.

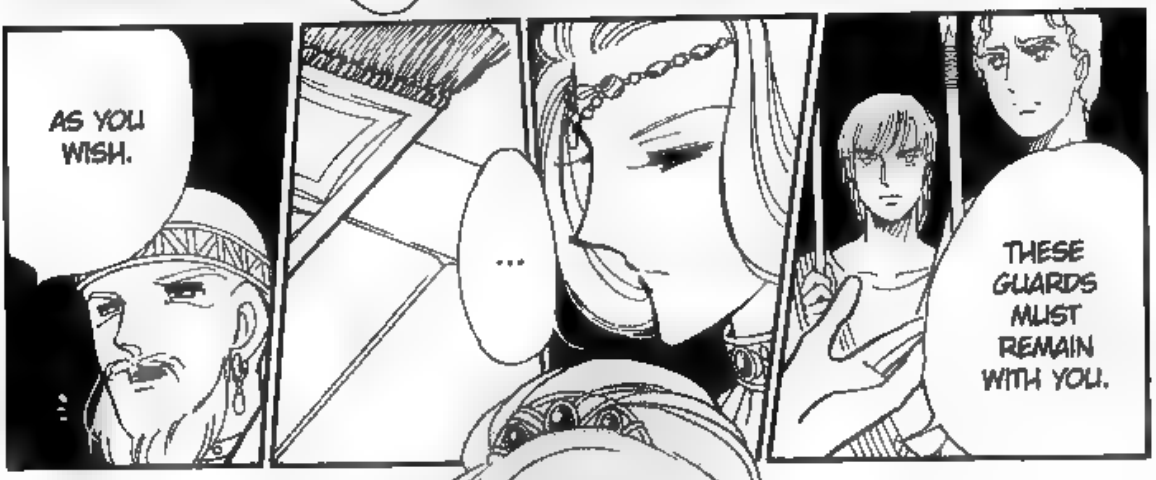

WATCH HER... CAREFULLY!
CERTAINLY, SIR.

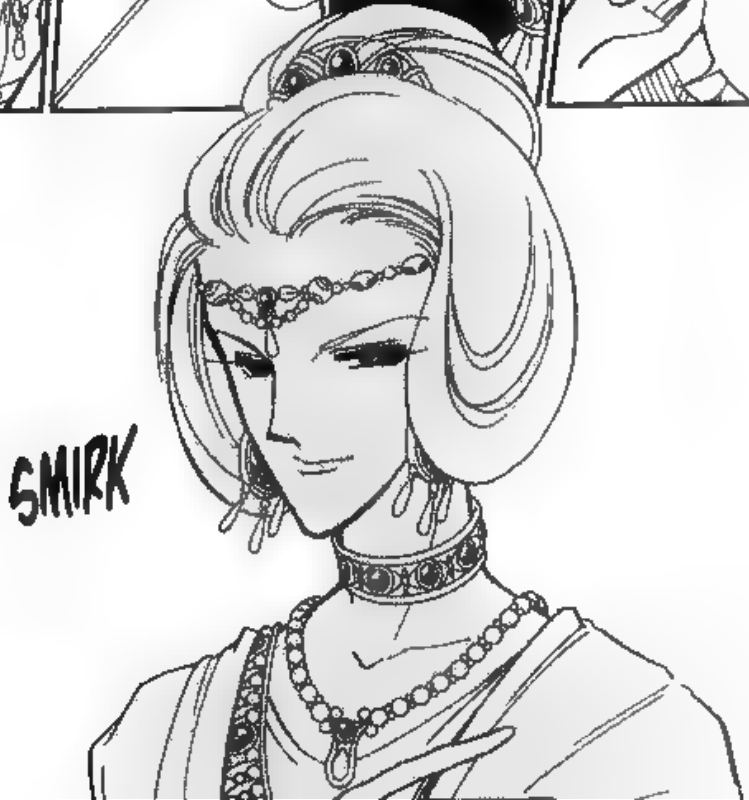
IT DOES NOT SUIT MY NEEDS.

PARDON?
IF I AM TO TESTIFY THIS AFTERNOON...
...I NEED A QUIET ROOM WHERE I CAN COMPOSE MYSELF.

YOU MAY REST IN THIS ROOM, YOUR HIGHNESS.


WILL THIS DO?
IT WILL.


AS YOU WISH.
...
THESE GUARDS MUST REMAIN WITH YOU.


SMIRK

KAIL...
NAKIA'S PLANNING SOMETHING.
SHE DIDN'T ATTEND THE COUNCIL MEETING JUST TO KEEP REPEATING "I KNOW NOTHING."
...BEFORE WE MAKE A DECISION ABOUT HER.
I AGREE, YURI, BUT WE MUST FOLLOW PROCEDURE...
...SHE SEEMS TO HAVE A KNACK OF DISPENSING ANYWHERE WITHOUT EVEN LEAVING HER PALACE.
SHE MIGHT USE HER WATER MAGIC, THOUGH THAT'S SOMETHING...

...IT IS SAID THAT INFUSING ORDINARY WATER WITH ENCHANTMENT REQUIRES SPECIAL SURROUND-INGS...
...A PROTECTIVE SPACE.
THAT IS TRUE.
I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT THE NATURE OF THIS "BLACK WATER," BUT...
PROTECTIVE SPACE...?
HER HIGHNESS SEEMED TO PREFER IT.
UH... YES SIR.
THAT DAMP ROOM FACING NORTH?
THE RED OAK ROOM?
THANK YOU, CHAIRMAN AYGIL.
EXCUSE ME, I HAVE PLACED HER HIGHNESS IN THE RED OAK ROOM TO WAIT.

WAIT! WHERE IS URHI BEING HELD?
IN THE NORTHERN DUNGEON ...
WHICH IS LOCATED... RIGHT *BENEATH* THE RED OAK ROOM!

WOULD YOU LIKE SOME WINE, YOUR HIGHNESS?
YOUR HIGHNESS ...?
YOUR MAJESTY!
SHE MAY BE PLANNING TO KILL OUR WITNESS!
SCRA
SH

RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
WHAT'S... WHAT'S ALL THAT NOISE?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE

DO YOU THINK NAKIA REALLY MEANS TO KILL URHI?
NO DOUBT OF IT!
THERE IS NOTHING NAKIA LOVES MORE THAN POWER, YURI! NOTHING!
BUT I'M SURE URHI LOVES HER!
NAKIA IS SURELY AWARE OF THAT!
GUARDS!
TO THE DUNGEON! ON THE DOUBLE!
AND SEND MEN TO THE RED OAK ROOM!

IS NAKIA TRULY SO INHUMAN THAT SHE DOESN'T CARE?!
WHERE'S THIS ALL COMING FROM?
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON?!
IT'S... IT'S COMING FROM THE DRAINS!
RATTLE
RATTLE
GASP

Y...YOUR HIGHNESS?
IS ANYTHING WRONG?!
RATTLE
RATTLE
I DON'T THINK SO...
IS THE GRATE RATTLING?
RATTLE
RATTLE
IT'S THE WATER! THE WATER'S MOVING!
BLUB
BLUB

GLARE
BANG
YOW!!

IT'S OBVIOUS! SHE GOING TO...
IF SHE DOESN'T INTEND TO KILL URHI, WHAT IS SHE UP TO?!
BOOSH

SPLASH
SPLISH
SPLISHSPLASH!

...RESCUE...
...THE MAN SHE LOVES!

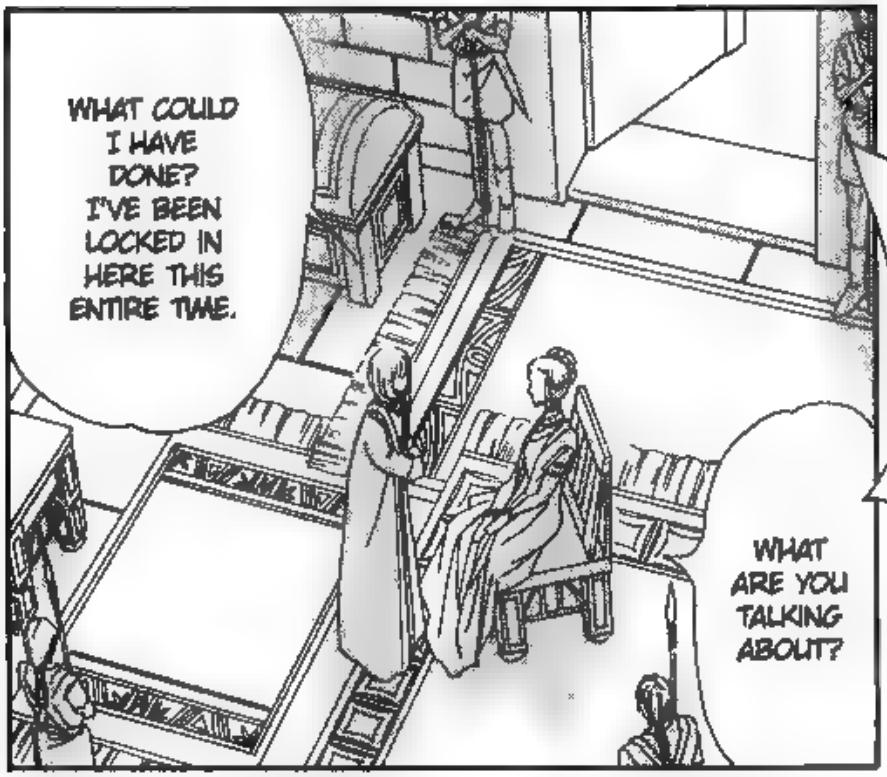
IF NAKIA DOES LOVE URHI...
...SHE WOULDN'T KILL HIM!

THUD
GASP
IF NAKIA USED...
...HER WATER MAGIC TO RESCUE HIRHI, NOT KILL HIM...
IT'S THE JAILOR FOR THE NORTHERN DUNGEON!
HE'S BEEN STABBED TO DEATH!

...THAT MEANS THEY TRULY ARE IN LOVE WITH EACH OTHER!
WHERE'S URHI?!
URHI!
THIS MAN'S SWORD IS MISSING!

EVEN IF THEY ARE IN LOVE...
...YOU MUSTN'T LET YOURSELF FORGET WHAT THEY'VE DONE.
I KNOW YOU HAVE A ROMANTIC HEART, BUT IT CAN SERVE NO PURPOSE IN THIS MATTER.
SWORD?!
CLOSE ALL THE GATES!
LIRH! MUST STILL BE IN THE PALACE. FIND HIM!
YES, SIR!
YURI...

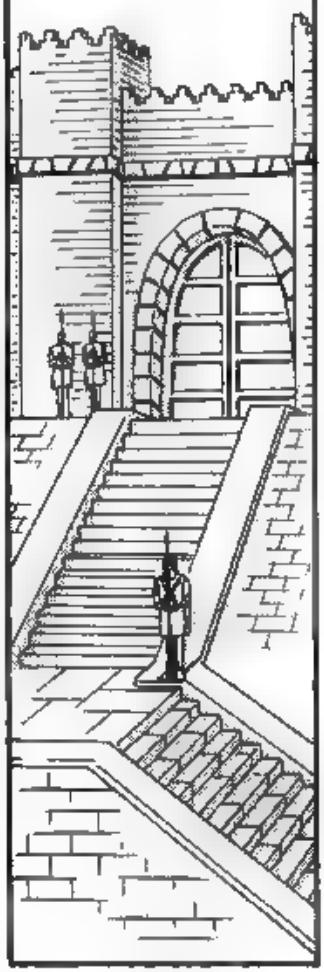
I'M NOT SORRY FOR THEM.
BUT THERE'S STILL THAT RUMOR THAT PRINCE JUDA MIGHT BE URHI'S CHILD.
IF IT'S TRUE, WHAT WILL THAT DO TO KAIL? I DON'T WANT TO SEE HIM HURT!
YES, KAIL...
...I WON'T FORGET.


WHAT COULD I HAVE DONE? I'VE BEEN LOCKED IN HERE THIS ENTIRE TIME.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

MOTHER!
WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!

YOU FREED URHI, DIDN'T YOU!
EVERYONE KNOWS YOU CAN CONTROL WATER WITH YOUR MAGIC!

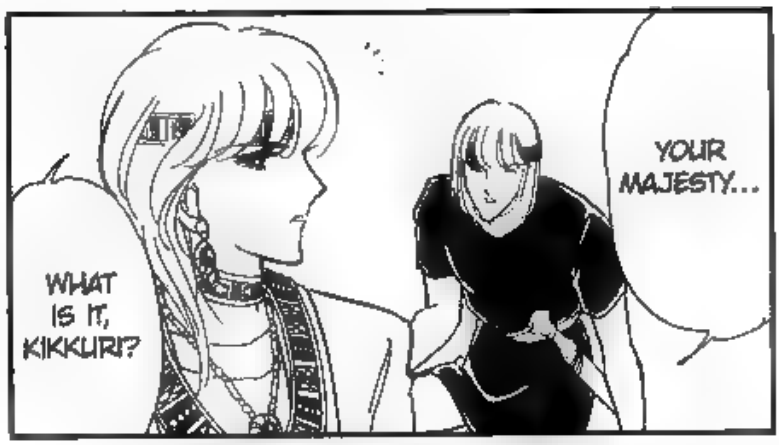
YOUR MAJESTY, PRINCESS YURI!
PRINCE JUDA...

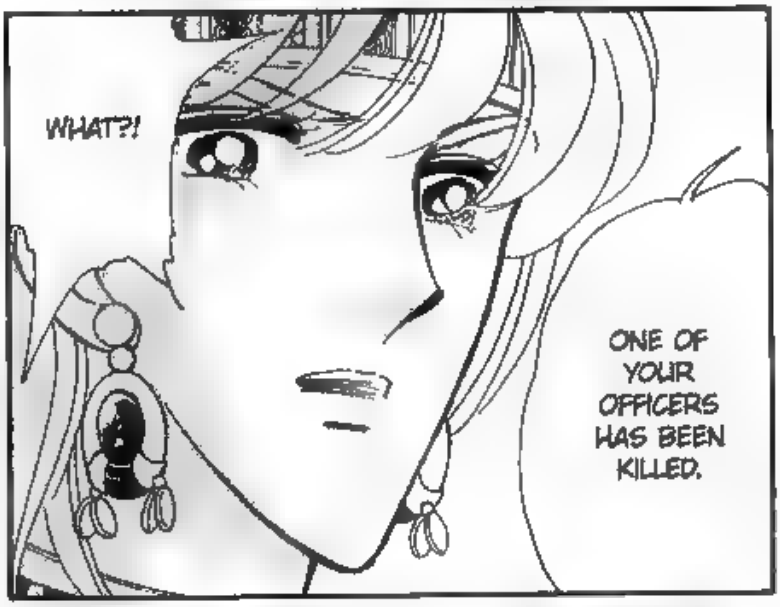


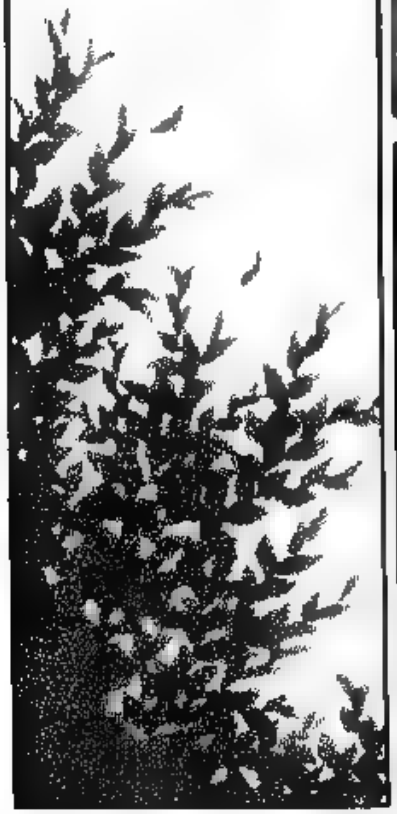
WHAT IS IT...
CHUCKLE
...YOU THINK I WANT, YOUR MAJESTY?
I AM DETERMINED THAT YOU CAUSE NO FURTHER MISCHIEF.
THIS IS DEEPLY REGRETTABLE, YOUR HIGHNESS.
I WAS HOPING YOU WOULD ABANDON YOUR AMBITIONS GRACEFULLY.
NOW YOU WILL BE MOVED TO A TEMPLE WHERE I CAN USE MY MAGIC TO CONFINE YOU.

WHAT?
JUDA! TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF.
YOU WISH TO TAKE AWAY MY TITLES AND EXECUTE ME?
THEN DO SO.
SINCE HIS MAJESTY HAS NO CHILDREN...
...YOU ARE PRESENTLY FIRST IN LINE TO SUCCEED TO THE THRONE.
MOTHER!
BE STRONG, SO YOU CAN TAKE CARE OF YOUR EMPIRE AND YOUR PEOPLE.

YOU KNOW MY FATHER IS...
BUT I'M NOT...
SILENCE! YOU ARE A *LEGITIMATE PRINCE* OF THE HITTITE EMPIRE!
DON'T EVER FORGET THAT!
WHAT ELSE IS SHE STILL DETERMINED TO DO?
SHE HASN'T GIVEN UP HER IDEA OF PRINCE JUDA CLAIMING THE THRONE!


YOUR MAJESTY...
WHAT IS IT, KIKKURI?


WHAT?!
ONE OF YOUR OFFICERS HAS BEEN KILLED.



HE WAS ASSIGNED TO THE PALACE.
HE WAS STABBED TO DEATH...
...AND HIS BODY HIDDEN IN THE BUSHES.
WERE THIS MAN AND THE JAILOR KILLED BY THE SAME PERSON?
I'D SAY SO, SIR.
ALL THE GATES ARE SHUT. URHI MUST HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE OFFICER...
...WHILE FLEEING THE DUNGEON, AND KILLED HIM.

YES, SIR!
CHECK ALL STOREROOMS AND COMB THE WOODS!
SEARCH EVERY-WHERE!
THERE'S NO WAY SHE CAN WRIGGLE OUT OF THE NOOSE NOW.
THE MINIS-TERS ARE CON-VINCED OF HER GUILT.
RUSTLE
THEY SAY THE EVIDENCE AGAINST HER IS ROCK SOLID.
NO KIDDING.
HER HIGHNESS SHOULD ACCEPT DEFEAT WITH GRACE.
RUSTLE RUSTLE
I JUST DON'T GET WHAT SHE HOPES TO ACCOMPLISH BY DENYING EVERYTHING.

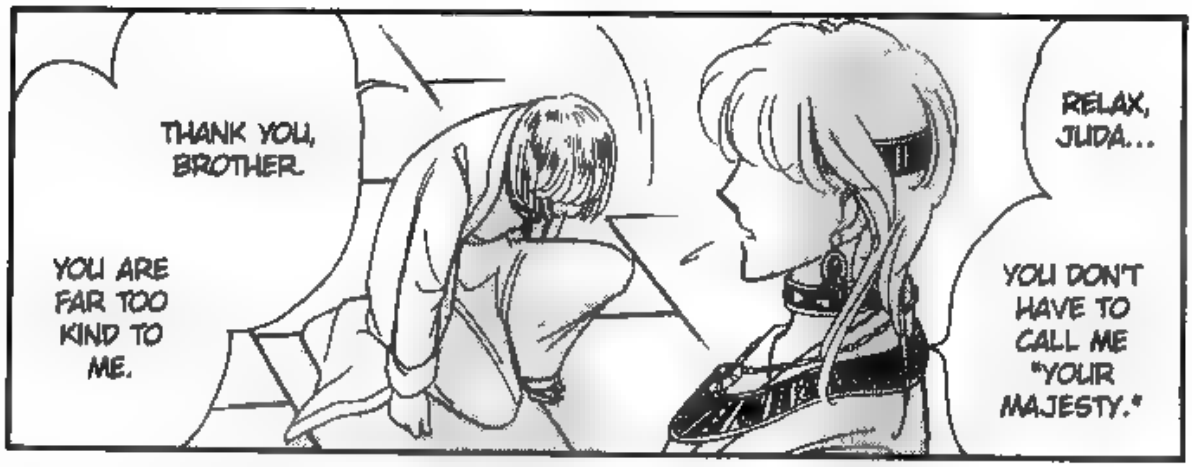
UNGH!
GRAB

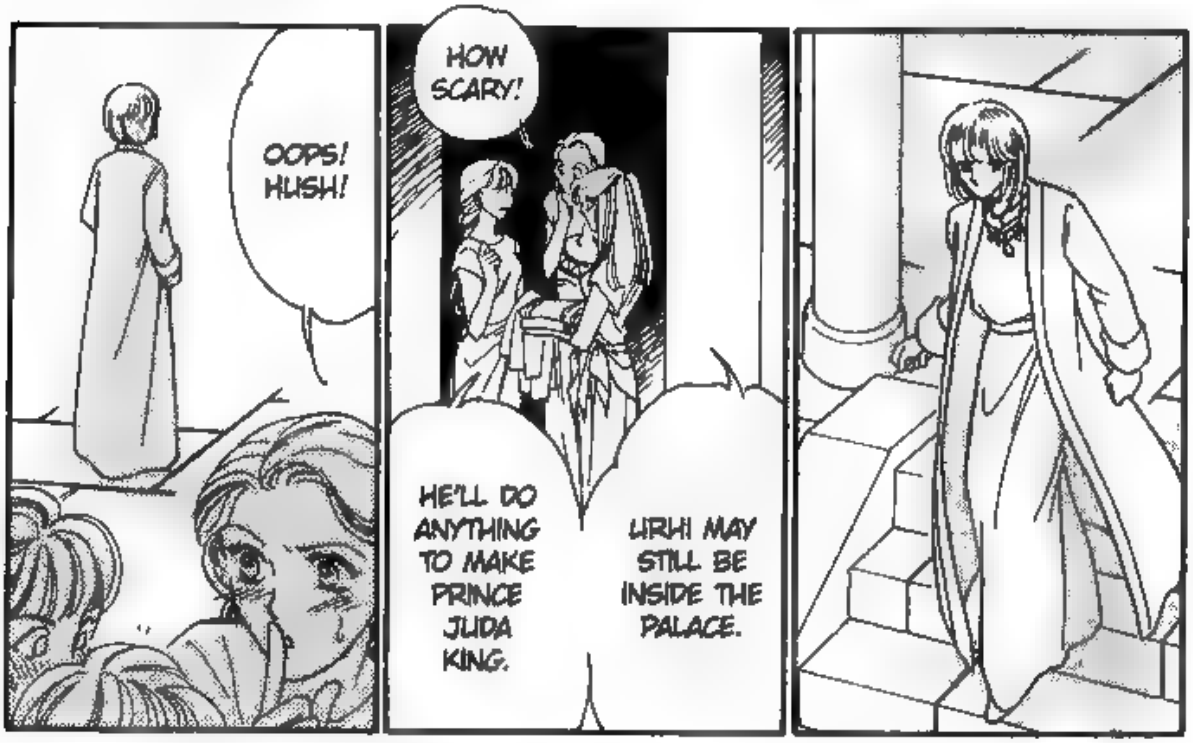
SHOOK
KLANG
HEY!!
...DON'T YOU THINK?
WE SHOULD MOVE TO THE NEXT SECTION...
DOESN'T LOOK LIKE HE'S AROUND HERE.

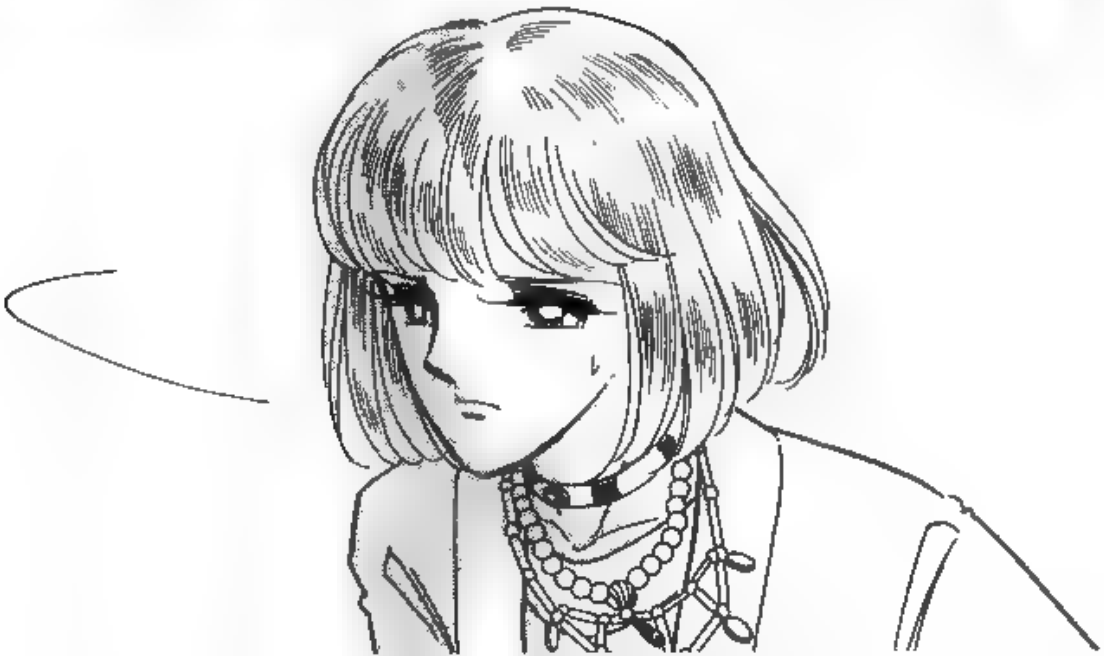
I FAILED, SIR. HE WAS SO QUICK...
...I COULDN'T CATCH HIM.
THIS MAN WAS KILLED THE SAME WAY AS THE OTHERS.
IT WOULD SEEM...
...URHI IS NOT ATTEMPTING TO LEAVE.
RATHER, HE WANTS TO REMAIN WITHIN THE PALACE ENVIRONS.
YES...
SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU, ILBANI?
ALL THREE MEN WERE KILLED IN THE INNER PALACE AREA.

WHAT ARE YOU SUGGEST-ING?
YOU THINK URHI PLANS TO MURDER HIS MAJESTY?!
HOW COULD HE HOPE TO DO THAT? SURELY HE CAN'T BYPASS OR KILL ALL THE GUARDS!
AS NAKIA SAID, HIS MAJESTY HAS NO CHILDREN. SHOULD SOMETHING HAPPEN TO HIM...
...PRINCE JUDA IS NEXT IN LINE TO ASSUME THE THRONE, EXACTLY WHAT THE QUEEN DOWAGER WANTS TO HAPPEN.
KILLING THE KING MAY BE THE ONLY OPTION LEFT TO HIM.
YOU'RE PROBABLY A TARGET AS WELL, PRINCESS YURI.

LET ME JOIN THE SEARCH!
OH...
I MEAN, YOUR MAJESTY.
JUDA...
YOU SHOULD GO BACK TO THE PALACE AND GET SOME REST.
NO! I WANT TO HELP. LET ME DO THIS FOR YOU!
PLEASE, BROTHER!


THANK YOU, BROTHER.
YOU ARE FAR TOO KIND TO ME.
RELAX, JUDA...
YOU DON'T HAVE TO CALL ME "YOUR MAJESTY."


OOPS! HUSH!
HOW SCARY!
HE'LL DO ANYTHING TO MAKE PRINCE JUDA KING.
URHI MAY STILL BE INSIDE THE PALACE.



UNTIL URHI IS APPREHENDED...
...YOUR PERSONAL GUARD WILL BE INCREASED.
GUARDING ONE BEDCHAMBER AT NIGHT IS MORE EFFICIENT THAN GUARDING TWO.
ALTHOUGH I THANK YOU BOTH FOR MAKING MY JOB EASIER.
BLUSH
YOU ALWAYS BRING ME GIRLY DRESSES. I'LL GO!
PRINCESS YURI, WE'LL DO THAT FOR YOU!
WELL, I'LL NEED TO GET SOME CLOTHES FROM MY ROOM!

CREAK
DO I REALLY NEED SO MANY GUARDS?
TUP
TUP
HUH?

OH DEAR!
THIS ROOM IS A MESS!
IT'S SUPPOSED TO BE CLEANED EVERY DAY!
KINK
STAND BACK, PRINCESS YURI! I'LL CHECK IT!
THE DOOR TO THE CLOSET IS OPEN.

WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
THERE SEEMS TO HAVE BEEN A STRUGGLE.
CLUNK

OMIGOD!
...THE SERVANT IN CHARGE OF PRINCESS YURI'S CLOTHES!
THIS GIRL WAS...

URHI MANAGED TO GET THIS FAR, DEEP INTO THE PALACE, PAST EVERY GUARD...
...TO COMMIT MURDER IN MY OWN ROOM!!
SEARCH THE AREA!
HE CAN'T HAVE GONE FAR.
HIS MESSAGE SEEMS CLEAR.
ILBANI WAS RIGHT. URHI INTENDS TO KILL YOU!
RYUI! PLEASE WARN THE COURT LADIES TO STAY TOGETHER.
RIGHT AWAY!
THE BODY IS STILL WARM.

EIEEEEE
BUZZ
BUZZ
HAS... HAS SOMEONE ELSE BEEN KILLED?
WHAT'S GOING ON?
AHHH
ROAR
YES, SIR!
BRING MORE GUARDS FOR PRINCE JUDA'S BED-CHAMBER!
YES, SIR!
GO SEE WHAT'S HAPPENED.

SLAM
?!

URHI!

WAIT, URHI! STOP!
GRAB
I DON'T WANT TO BE A KING!
URHI!
PLEASE! STOP AND LISTEN TO ME!

PRINCE JUDA...
URHI...
I MUST ASK YOU ONE THING.

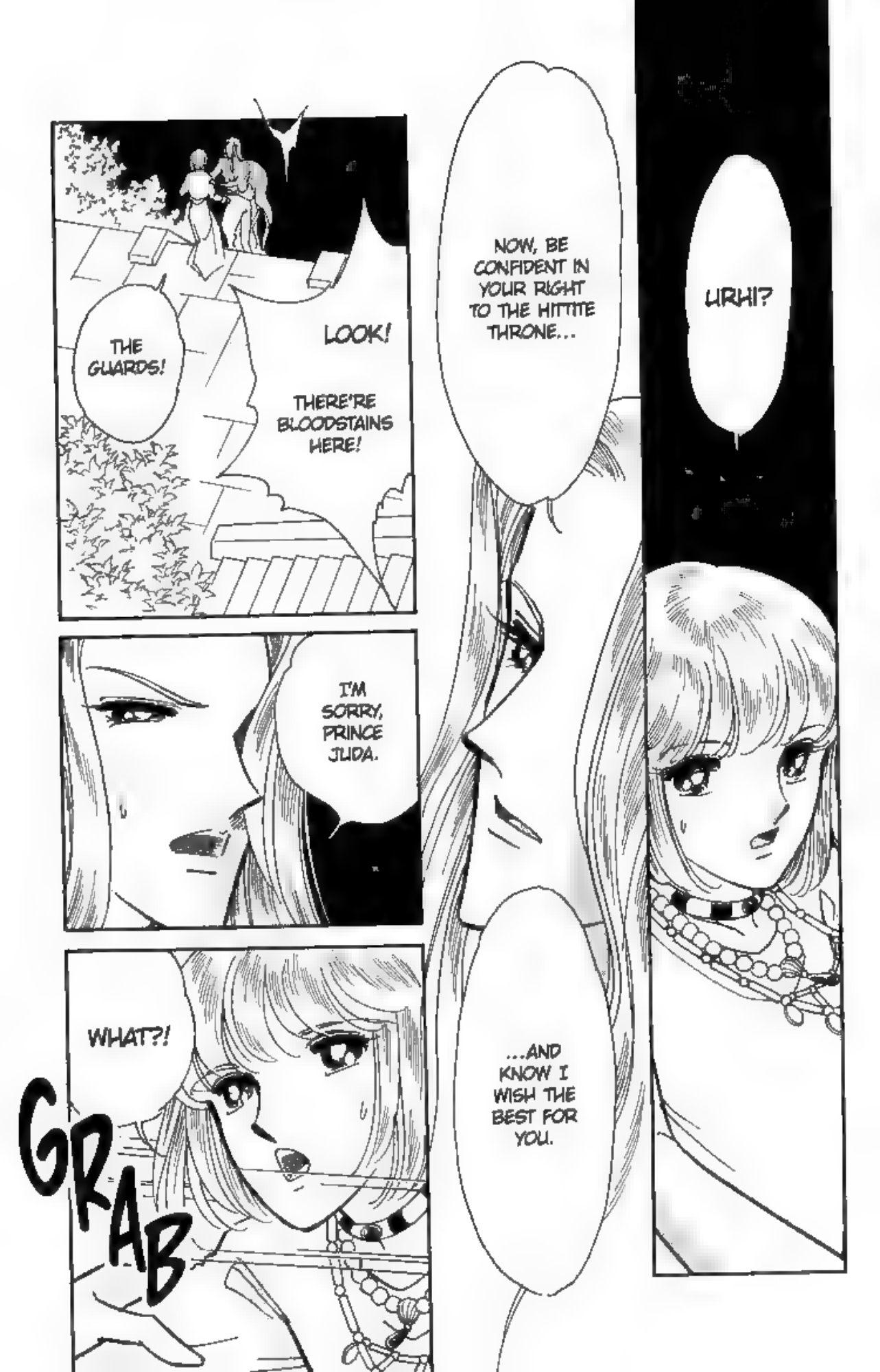
WHO IS MY REAL FATHER?!
KING SUPPILULIUMA I? IS HE REALLY MY FATHER?
OR ARE THE WHISPERS AND GOSSIP TRUE?
ARE YOU MY FATHER?

TELL ME THE TRUTH!!
PRINCE JUDA...
TELL ME, URHI! IT'S TRUE, ISN'T IT? YOU ARE MY REAL FATHER!

YOU SHOULDN'T LISTEN TO IDLE RUMORS.
PRINCE JUDA, PLEASE DON'T BE FOOLISH.
YOU'VE ALWAYS BEEN MY MOTHER'S COMPANION. TELL ME THE TRUTH!
IT'S NOT JUST A RUMOR!!
IF I'M NOT A MEMBER OF THE ROYAL FAMILY, THEN I'VE BEEN LIVING A LIE MY ENTIRE LIFE!
WHY AM I THE ONLY ONE IN MY FAMILY WITH BLOND HAIR?
BUT, URHI...
...WOULD BE DEEPLY HUMILIATING TO YOUR MOTHER?!
DO YOU REALIZE WHAT YOU'RE SAYING...
GRAB
PRINCE JUDA!

PLEASE HEAR THIS, PRINCE JUDA...
YOU ARE A TRUE SON OF KING SUPPILULIUMA I...
...AND A LEGITIMATE HEIR OF THE HITTITE IMPERIAL FAMILY.
DON'T EVER DOUBT THAT.
...
BELIEVE ME WHEN I SAY THIS...
...HAD YOU BEEN MY OWN CHILD...

I WOULD HAVE...
...TAKEN YOU AND YOUR MOTHER OUT OF THE PALACE...
...AND FLED SOMEWHERE SAFE LONG AGO.


LOOK!
THERE'RE BLOODSTAINS HERE!
THE GUARDS!
I'M SORRY, PRINCE JUDA.
WHAT?!
GRAB
NOW, BE CONFIDENT IN YOUR RIGHT TO THE HITTITE THRONE...
...AND KNOW I WISH THE BEST FOR YOU.
URHI?

UNGH!
THOMP
I DON'T WANT TO BE KING...
I'VE NEVER WANTED TO BE KING.
I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH FOR THAT.
I'VE ONLY EVER WANTED TO HELP KAIL.

LOOK!
MORE BLOOD OVER THERE...
PRINCE JUDA?!
UNH...

UNTIL URHI IS RECAPTURED, THE PALACE IS NOT A SAFE PLACE.
IT WOULD BE UNWISE FOR YOU TO STAY HERE, PRINCESS ALEXANDRA.
YOU NEED TO MOVE TO A MORE SECURE LOCATION.
PLEASE, BIG SIS! LET ME STAY HERE WITH YOU!
AND THEN ALL OF THIS WILL BE OVER!
AFTER ALL, DOWAGER QUEEN NAKIA IS CERTAIN TO BE CONVICTED OF TREASON.
IF ONLY THAT WERE TRUE.

...THE HITTITE EMPIRE ISN'T A PURE MONARCHY.
THE KING, THE QUEEN DOWAGER AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ALL SHARE POWER. THEY GOVERN BY THE HITTITE CODE.
ACCORDING TO THE CODE, THE KING DOES NOT HAVE THE SOLE AUTHORITY TO EXECUTE THE QUEEN DOWAGER.
BUT IT MAY NOT BE THAT SIMPLE.
ONCE NAKIA IS CONVICTED OF TREASON, THE KING WILL HAVE HER EXECUTED, WON'T HE?
WHY NOT?
THAT'S NOT THE WAY IT WORKS.
YOU SEE...

WHY IS IT SO COMPLICATED?
PRINCESS...
...A NATION DOESN'T ALWAYS GET A WISE MAN AS ITS RULER.
SO IT'S VITAL THAT A NATION'S GOVERNMENT HAS CHECKS AND BALANCES.
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE THIS SHARED SYSTEM.
AND THAT'S WHY KAIL IS MAKING SURE THAT THE ACCUSATIONS AGAINST QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA ARE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS...
...EVEN IF HER GUILT SEEMS OBVIOUS.

I SEE...
I GUESS I UNDERSTAND.
BIG SIS, PLEASE BE CAREFUL!
OKAY.
PRINCESS YURI, IT'S TIME WE RETURNED TO HIS MAJESTY.
TO BE HONEST, I UNDERSTAND HOW SHE FEELS.
I'D LOVE TO HAVE THIS MATTER RESOLVED NOW, NOT LATER.
THAT MAY BE POSSIBLE, PRINCESS YURI.
OH?

PRINCESS ALEXANDRA...
OH, PRINCE JUDA!
I THOUGHT PRINCESS YURI WAS HERE.
I'M SORRY FOR BARGING IN.
I'M SORRY TO HAVE BOTHERED YOU.
PRINCE JUDA, WAIT!
...AND THOUGHT I SHOULD LET HER KNOW.
WELL, I JUST SAW URHI...
IS ANYTHING WRONG?
SHE JUST LEFT WITH ILBANI.

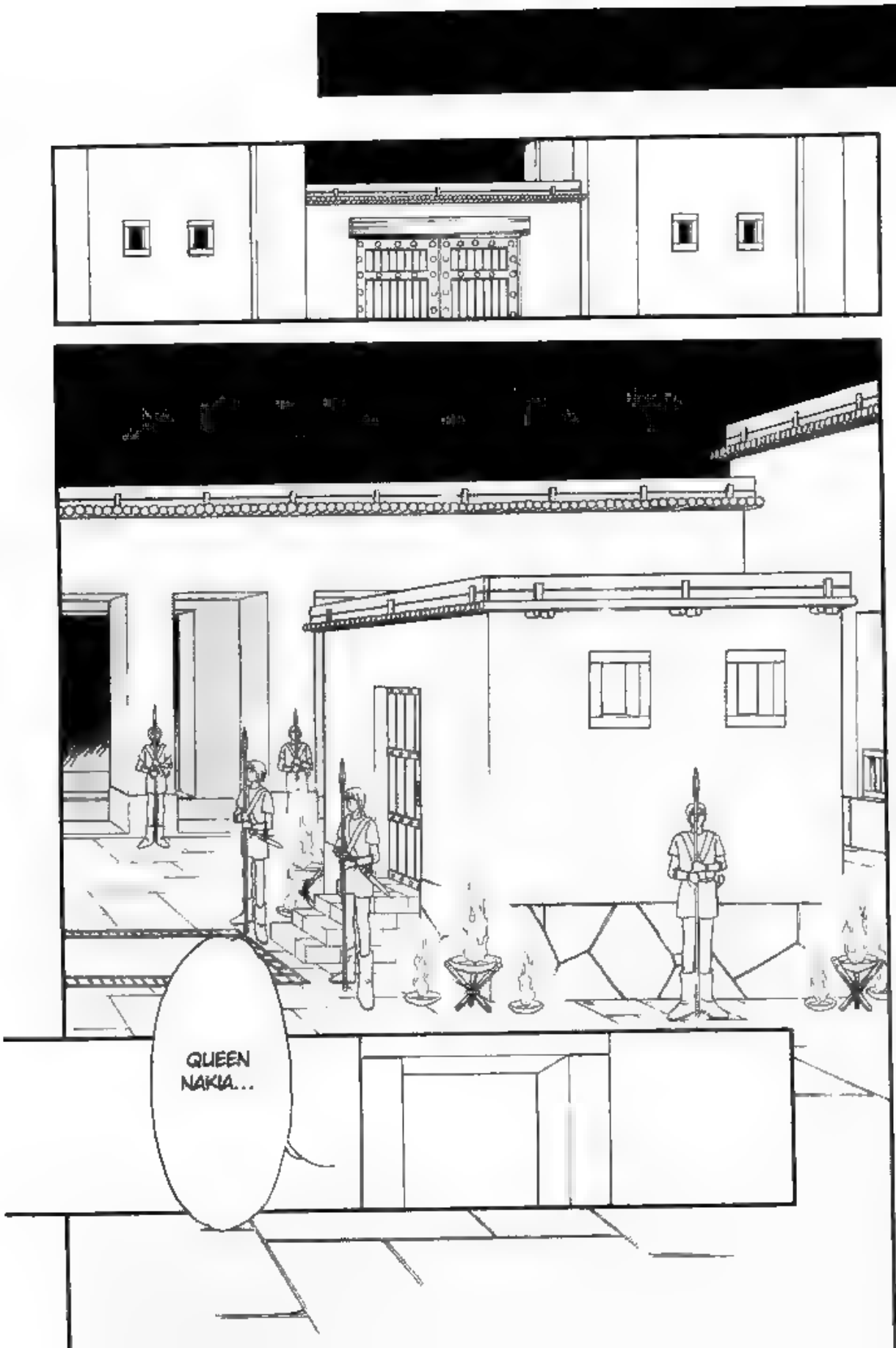
...
...
...AND THAT IS TO SEE HER SON ON THE HITTITE THRONE...
...IN PLACE OF HIS MAJESTY.
...NAKIA HAS ONE DRIVING PURPOSE, ONE GOAL ABOVE ALL OTHERS...
WELL, MA'AM...
ILBANI....
...WHAT EXACTLY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

IT'S ALL ABOUT PRINCE JUDA.
...
HER EVIL DEEDS SPRING FROM HER LOVE FOR HER SON...
...AND HER DESIRE TO EXERCISE POWER THROUGH HIS RULE. AS SUCH, PRINCE JUDA...
...COULD BE CONSIDERED THE SOURCE OF HER EVIL DEEDS.

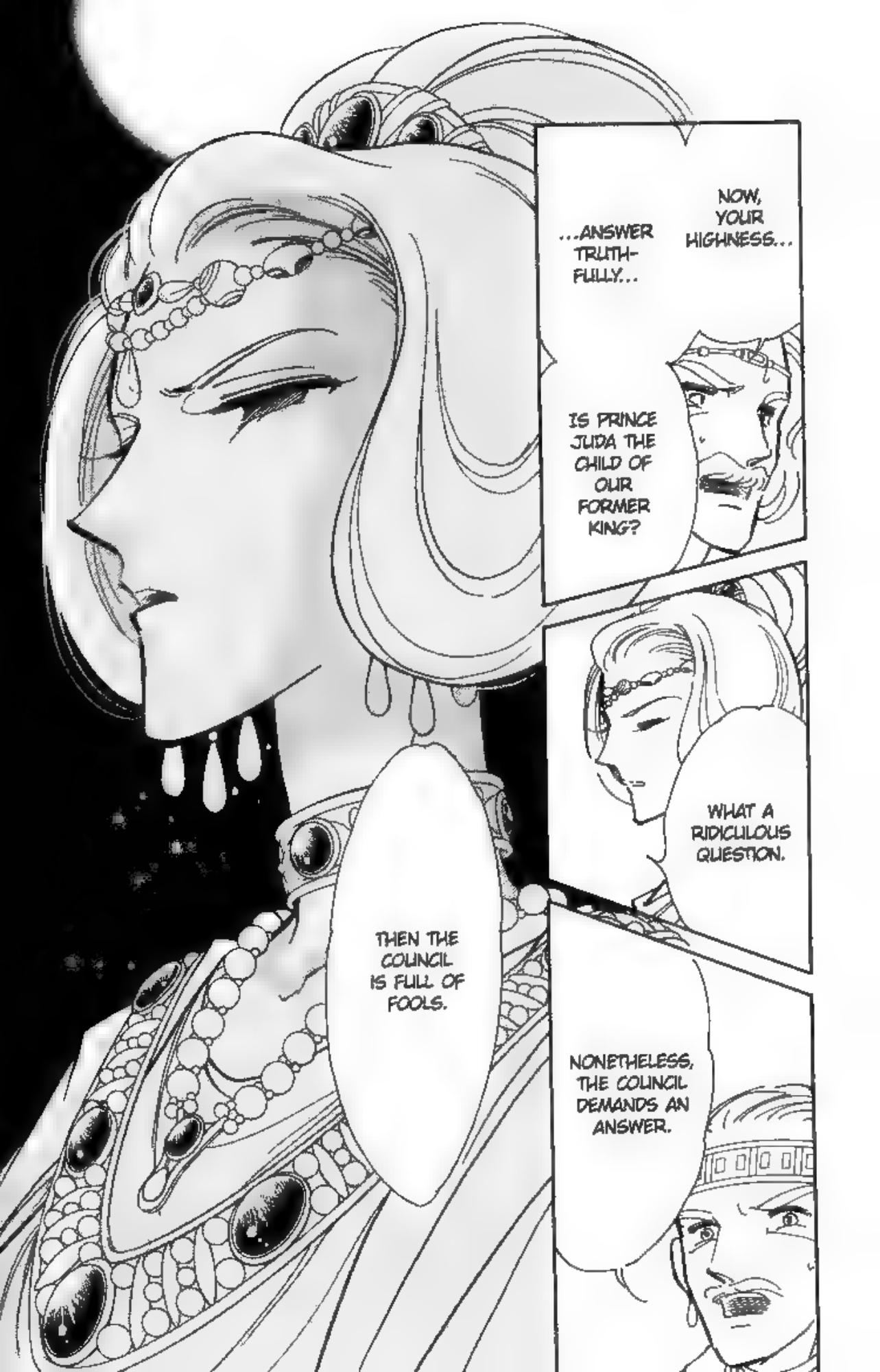
PRINCE JUDA!
"HER EVIL DEEDS SPRING FROM HER LOVE FOR HER SON..."
OH MY...

I'M NOT SUGGESTING WE SHOULD ASSASSINATE THE YOUNG PRINCE.
THERE'S NO NEED TO DO SUCH A THING.
WE ONLY NEED TO REMOVE PRINCE JUDA'S POTENTIAL TO BE A SUCCESSOR TO THE THRONE.
BUT THAT'S JUST GOSSIP! WE HAVE NO PROOF!
WHICH WOULD HAPPEN IF URHI WAS IDENTIFIED AS PRINCE JUDA'S FATHER.
IT DOESN'T MATTER. THE MERE EXISTENCE OF THE RUMOR IS ENOUGH FOR OUR NEEDS.
ALL WE NEED ARE A COUPLE OF WITNESSES TO TESTIFY AGAINST HIM, AND PRINCE JUDA WILL LOSE HIS RIGHT OF SUCCESSION.

...
ILBANI...
WHAT DO YOU KNOW THAT I DON'T?
IF THIS SITUATION WITH NAKIA GOES ON MUCH LONGER, THOSE WITNESSES...
...WILL BE FOUND, PRINCESS YURI.
IS HE TALKING ABOUT CALLING FALSE WITNESSES?
WHAT ABOUT THE TRUTH?


QUEEN NAKIA...

I'VE CAST A HOLDING SPELL ON THIS PLACE.
CONSEQUENTLY, YOUR MAGIC IS USELESS HERE.
...
QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA!
YOU HAVE DELIBERATELY FREED A MAN ACCUSED OF ASSASSINATING KING SUPPILULIUMA I!
WHICH MAKES YOU AN ACCESSORY TO THAT ASSASSINATION!
YOU ARE ONLY MAKING THIS SITUATION WORSE FOR YOURSELF!


NOW, YOUR HIGHNESS...
...ANSWER TRUTHFULLY...
IS PRINCE JUDA THE CHILD OF OUR FORMER KING?
WHAT A RIDICULOUS QUESTION.
THEN THE COUNCIL IS FULL OF FOOLS.
NONETHELESS, THE COUNCIL DEMANDS AN ANSWER.

IN THIS ERA THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS BLOOD OR DNA TESTING.
THERE'S NO WAY TO PROVE...
...WHO PRINCE JUDA'S ACTUAL FATHER IS.
SHE SAYS THAT WITH SUCH CONFIDENCE, AND WHY NOT?
BEYOND THE SHADOW OF A DOUBT, JUDA HASUPASULUPI IS...
...THE CHILD OF KING SUPPILULIUMA I!

YES, RUSAFA?
PRINCESS YURI..
...SHE SAID THERE WAS SOMETHING SHE NEEDED TO TELL YOU RIGHT AWAY.
PRINCESS ALEXANDRA WAS HERE A MOMENT AGO...
I'M JUST SO WORRIED ABOUT PRINCE JUDA.
REALLY? WHY?
YOU!..
OH, BIG SIS! I'M SORRY TO BOTHER YOU.
...WANTED TO SEE ME, PRINCESS?

HE OVERHEARD THE CONVERSATION YOU AND ILBANI WERE HAVING...
...IN THE EAST WING HALLWAY A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
!!
"HER EVIL DEEDS SPRING FROM HER LOVE FOR HER SON..."
PRINCE JUDA HEARD THAT?

I DON'T WANT GUARDS. I'M GOING HOME ON MY OWN.
OPEN THE GATES. I'M RETURNING TO MY PALACE.
BUT, PRINCE JUDA...
...YOU CAN'T GO BACK ALONE! WHERE ARE YOUR GUARDS?
NAKIA'S PALACE...
PRINCE JUDA, WE DIDN'T EXPECT YOU!
WELCOME HOME!

OF COURSE, SIR. WE'LL HAVE YOUR ROOMS PREPARED IMMEDIATELY.
PLEASE SEE THAT I'M NOT DIS-TURBED.
NO, I'LL JUST REST IN MY MOTHER'S CHAMBERS.
THANK YOU.
THE JOURNEY FROM HATTUSA WAS VERY TIRING.
CREAK
KLUNK

...I'VE ONLY WANTED TO HELP MY BROTHER KAIL, THE WAY ZANNANZA DID.
ALL MY LIFE...
BUT INSTEAD, MY VERY EXISTENCE CAUSES KAIL GRIEF AND PUTS HIS LIFE IN DANGER.

I KNEW DEEP DOWN THAT I WAS A HINDRANCE TO HIM.
BUT I DIDN'T WANT TO ADMIT IT TO MYSELF.

I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS A LONG TIME AGO.
PLINK
...I'VE BEEN IN DOUBT.
ALL MY LIFE...

GLUG
GULP

CRASH

I SHOULD HAVE DONE THIS A LONG TIME AGO.

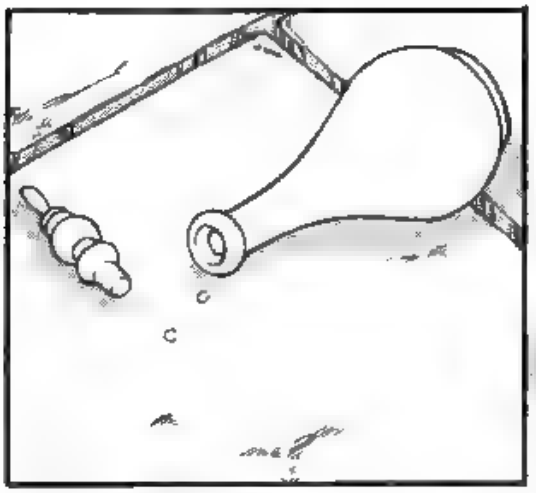
SO PRINCE JUDA TOLD YOU...
...HE WAS RETURNING TO HIS PALACE?
YES, MA'AM.
WE OFFERED HIM AN ESCORT...
...BUT HE DECLINED AND LEFT BY HIMSELF.
IT MAKES NO SENSE.
PRINCE JUDA HAS NO PALACE IN HATTUSA. HE MUST HAVE GONE TO...
...THE PALACE OF THE QUEEN DOWAGER.
RUSAFA!
FETCH ME A HORSE! QUICKLY!
YES, MA'AM!

"HER EVIL DEEDS SPRING FROM HER LOVE FOR HER SON..."
GOD FORBID HE SHOULD TRY TO TAKE MATTERS INTO HIS OWN HANDS!
IT'S TRUE THAT PRINCE JUDA IS THE MAIN SOURCE OF NAKIA'S AMBITION.
BUT I WISH HE HADN'T OVERHEARD WHAT ILBANI SAID.
THIS IS ISHTAR SPEAKING! OPEN THE GATE!
OPEN THE GATE!

NEIGH
...YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO ENTER!
BUT I'M SORRY...
WE HEAR YOU, ISHTAR!
I CANNOT LET YOU IN WITHOUT HER HIGHNESS' PERMISSION.
MY HANDS ARE TIED, ISHTAR.
...BUT THIS IS A MATTER OF LIFE AND DEATH!
I KNOW QUEEN DOWAGER NAKIA DOESN'T WANT ME ANYWHERE NEAR HERE...
NOW LET ME IN!
I HAVE REASON TO BELIEVE PRINCE JUDA'S LIFE IS IN DANGER!
YOU'RE WASTING TIME WHEN EVERY SECOND COUNTS!

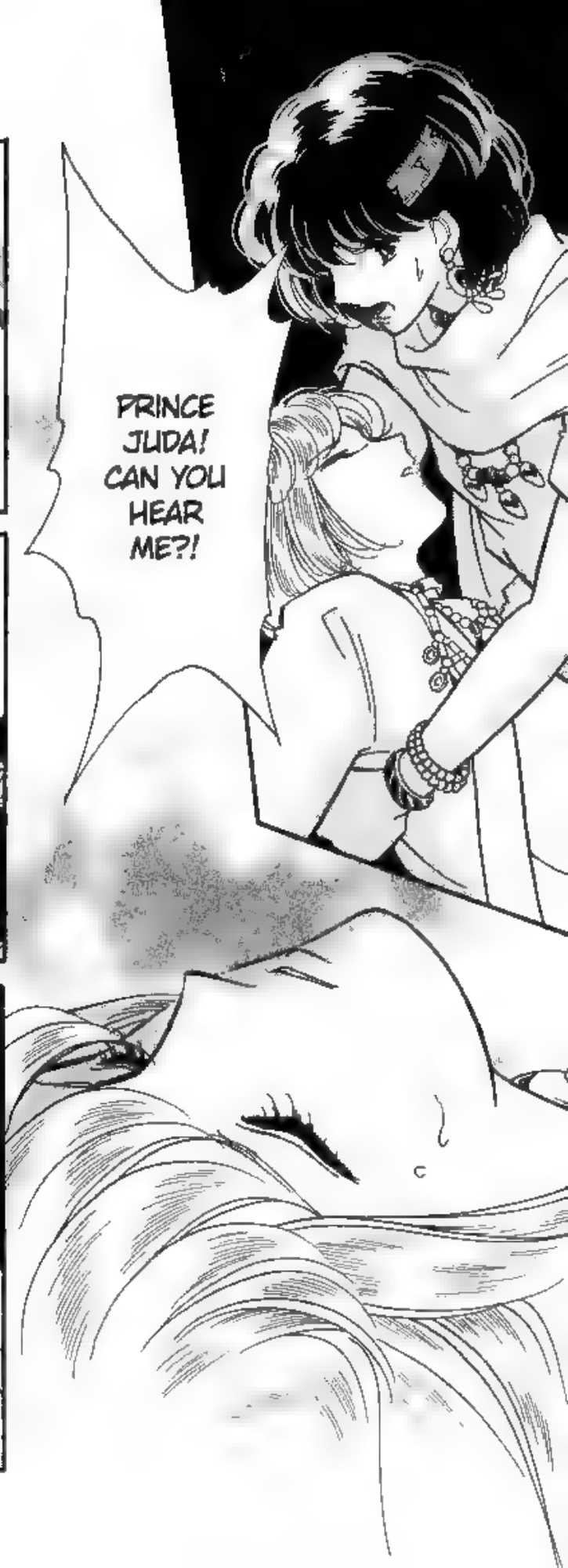
WHERE DID PRINCE JUDA GO?
I... I BELIEVE HE WENT TO HIS MOTHER'S CHAMBERS...
SHWOOK
PRINCE JUDA!
!!

DASH
PRINCE JUDA!
WHERE ARE YOU?!
OH GOD, NO!!



IT LOOKS LIKE...
...HE'S SWALLOWED POISON... TO KILL HIMSELF!

HE'S STILL BREATHING!


PRINCE JUDA! CAN YOU HEAR ME?!

AND KAIL LOVES YOU!
WE'VE GOT TO PURGE HIM!
AND BRING WATER! LOTS OF IT!
INFORM HIS MAJESTY IMMEDIATELY!
YES, MA'AM!
AT ONCE, MA'AM!
IT'S YOUR MOTHER WHO'S TO BLAME FOR ALL OF THIS, NOT YOU!
YOU POOR, NOBLE, FOOLISH BOY!

WHAT?
JUDA TRIED TO TAKE HIS OWN LIFE?
HAS A PHYSICIAN BEEN SUMMONED?!
NO! JUDA MUSTN'T DIE!
YES, SIR!
IS THERE ANYTHING YOU CAN DO ABOUT THAT, MOTHER?
YES THERE IS!
NOW TAKE ME TO MY SON!

JUDA!
THANK GOD YOU'RE HERE!
YOUR MAJESTY!
HOW DID YOU COME TO THIS, JUDA?
YOUR DEATH IS NO SOLUTION TO ANYTHING!
YURI! IS HE STILL ALIVE?!
BUT HE WON'T DRINK!
WE'VE BEEN TRYING TO FORCE WATER INTO HIM TO INDUCE VOMITING.

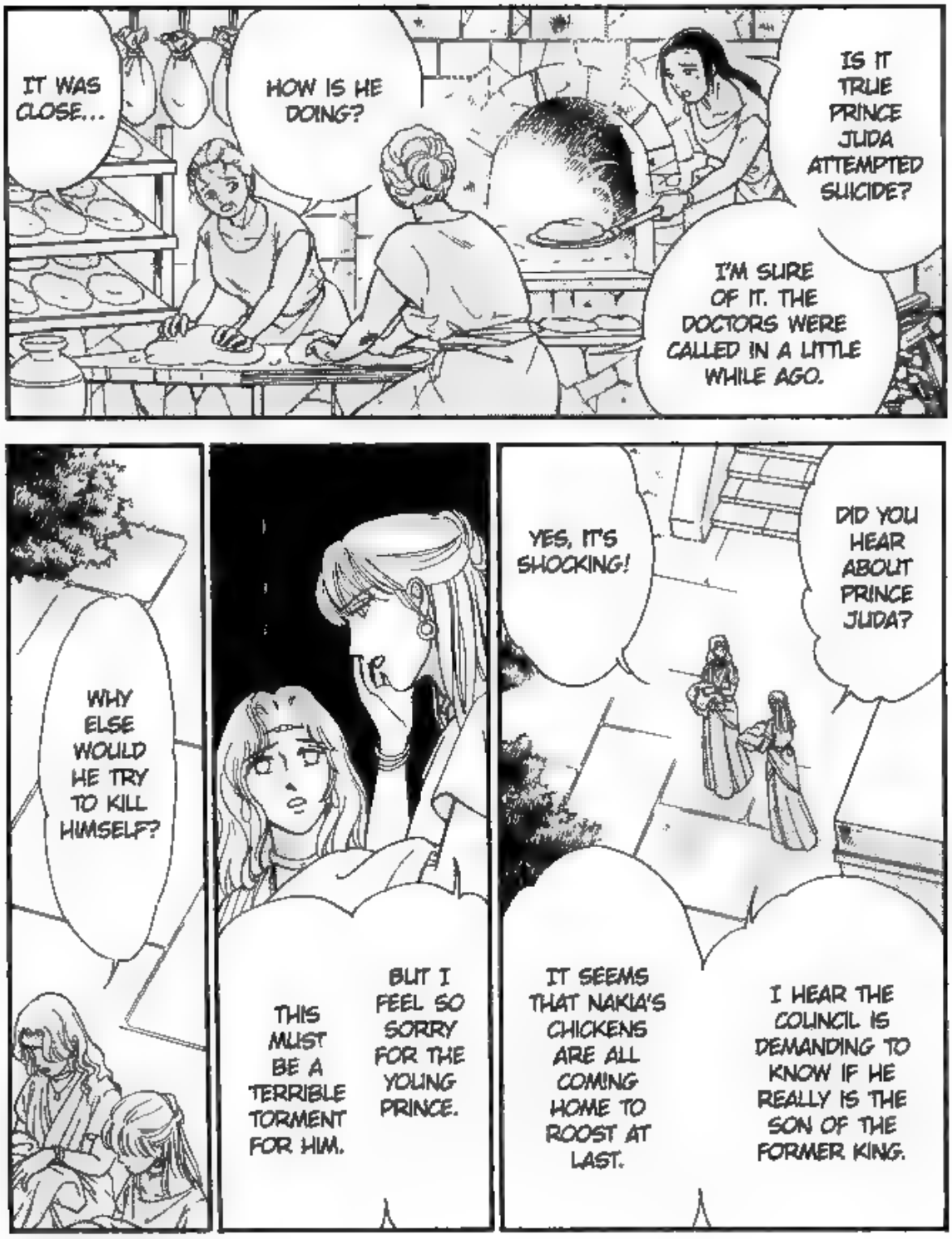
WHICH POISON DID HE TAKE?
PROBABLY THE ONE FROM THIS BOTTLE.
PLEASE, HURRY!
BLUB

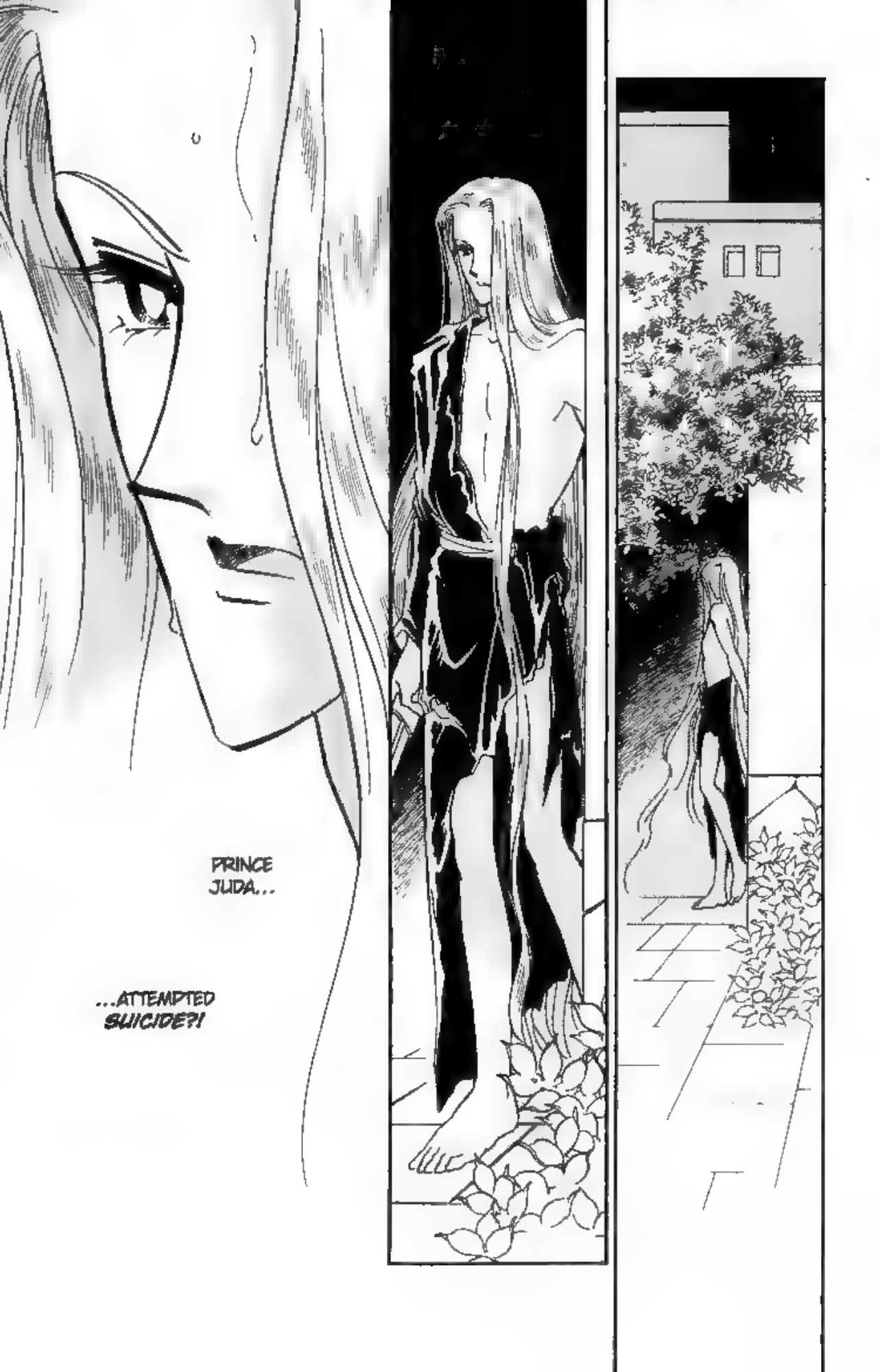
NOW, JUDA...
...LISTEN TO ME!
YOU MUST TAKE THIS!
HE'S NOT DRINKING!
KAIL? WHAT'RE YOU—

JUDA!
GLMPH
DID HE SWALLOW IT?
YES, HE DID.

SHF
...WE NEED TO KEEP HIM WARM AND QUIET.
NOW THAT HE'S TAKEN THE ANTIDOTE...
HIS PULSE IS STILL WEAK, SIR.
IS IT WORKING?
YES, SIR!
RUSAFA, ESCORT THE QUEEN DOWAGER.
TAKE HIM TO MY PALACE!
YOUR HIGHNESS, YOU WILL RETURN TO THE TEMPLE.
...
THIS WAY, YOUR HIGHNESS.

KAIL'S PALACE...
WORD OF PRINCE JUDA'S ACTIONS MUST NOT LEAVE THIS ROOM.
YES, SIR!
...AS A RUMOR, SPREAD BY...
...THE COURT LADIES, WHO EXCEL AT THAT.
FOR WHAT REASON?
I DISAGREE.
NEWS OF THIS SHOULD GET OUT...
TO BEAT THE BUSHES, FLUSH THE PREY, RIGHT?


IT WAS CLOSE...
HOW IS HE DOING?
IS IT TRUE PRINCE JUDA ATTEMPTED SUICIDE?
I'M SURE OF IT. THE DOCTORS WERE CALLED IN A LITTLE WHILE AGO.
WHY ELSE WOULD HE TRY TO KILL HIMSELF?
THIS MUST BE A TERRIBLE TORMENT FOR HIM.
BUT I FEEL SO SORRY FOR THE YOUNG PRINCE.
YES, IT'S SHOCKING!
DID YOU HEAR ABOUT PRINCE JUDA?
IT SEEMS THAT NAKIA'S CHICKENS ARE ALL COMING HOME TO ROOST AT LAST.
I HEAR THE COUNCIL IS DEMANDING TO KNOW IF HE REALLY IS THE SON OF THE FORMER KING.


PRINCE JUDA...
...ATTEMPTED SUICIDE?!

KAIL, COULDN'T YOU...
...STOP THE COUNCIL FROM QUESTIONING JUDA'S ROYAL STATUS? IT SEEMS WRONG, UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES.
I'M AFRAID I CAN'T, YURI. I'M SORRY FOR JUDA...
THE MINISTERS HAVE A RESPONSIBILITY TO ESTABLISH THE TRUTH.
...BUT I CAN'T ACT OUT OF SYMPATHY FOR HIM. AND I HAVE NO RIGHT TO ORDER THE COUNCIL TO SUSPEND THEIR INQUIRY.
YES, I SEE...
IF JUDA'S ROYAL PARENTAGE *IS* DISPROVEN, ALL OF NAKIA'S HOPES FOR HIM, AS WELL AS HER OWN DREAMS OF POWER, WILL BE DASHED.
THING IS...

WHY DOES IT ALL HAVE TO HAPPEN AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
IT PAINS ME TO ASK SUCH A PERSONAL QUESTION, YOUR HIGHNESS.
BUT I MUST PUT IT TO YOU DIRECTLY...
WHO IS THE FATHER OF PRINCE JUDA HASUPASULLIPI?

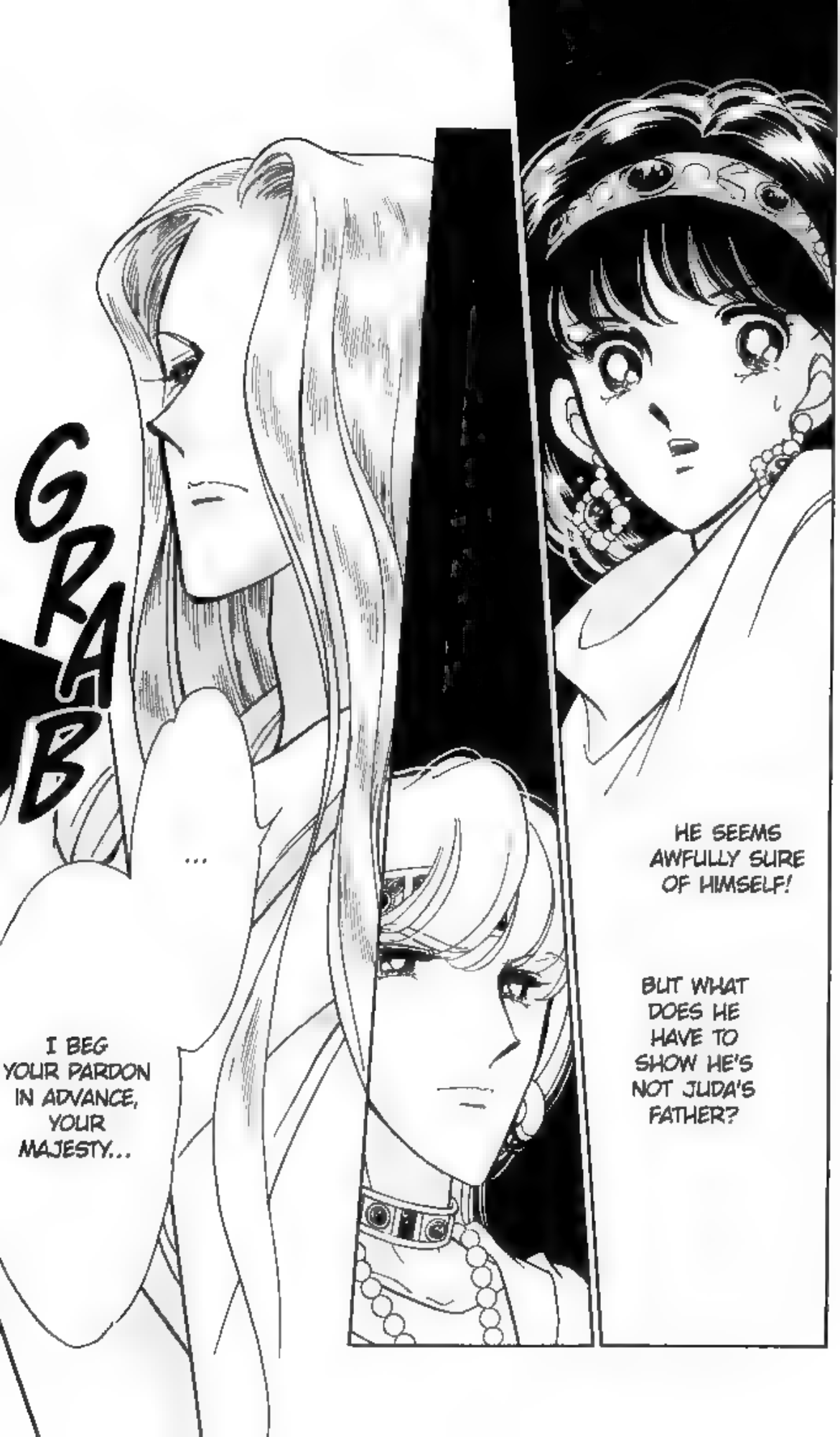
AS I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU...
...JUDA'S FATHER IS KING SUPPILU-LIUMA I.
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS...
...BUT WE REQUIRE VERIFICATION OF YOUR ASSERTION.
WHAT PROOF CAN YOU SHOW US?
WHAT PROOF DO YOU HAVE THAT JUDA IS NOT THE KING'S SON?
FOOLS! I AM HIS MOTHER! I KNOW BETTER THAN ANYONE WHO HIS FATHER IS!
THIS IS GOING NOWHERE FAST.
WITHOUT PROOF ON EITHER SIDE THEY'RE JUST BAITING EACH OTHER.

WHAT'S GOING ON?!
SIR! EXCUSE ME, SIR!
THE COUNCIL IS IN SESSION!
I'M SORRY SIR, BUT... BUT...
SPIT IT OUT, MAN!
WE HAVE A PROBLEM!
KLANK
!!
?!

STAND BACK.
COME NEAR ME AND THIS MAN DIES.
URHI!

RELEASE THAT MAN AND SURRENDER!
URHI, DON'T BE A FOOL!
??
OH... DO SHUT UP, RUSAFA.
I BRING INFORMATION THE COUNCIL DESIRES.
NOT SURPRISINGLY, THEY ARE WASTING THEIR TIME.
THEY ALSO SEEM RATHER ATTACHED TO THE IDEA THAT I AM HIS FATHER.
THE COUNCIL SEEMS INTENT ON PROVING PRINCE JUDA IS NOT OF ROYAL LINEAGE.

IS THAT SO?
THEN YOU HAVE EVIDENCE TO PRESENT?
KLANK
THUD
KLANG
KLANK
KLANK
RUSAFA! STAND DOWN!


HE SEEMS AWFULLY SURE OF HIMSELF!
BUT WHAT DOES HE HAVE TO SHOW HE'S NOT JUDA'S FATHER?
GRAB
...
I BEG YOUR PARDON IN ADVANCE, YOUR MAJESTY...

...BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, I AM A EUNUCH.
FLUMPH

WOW!
HE CAME TO SHOW WHAT HE DOESN'T HAVE!
IT IS NOT POSSIBLE FOR ME TO BE ANYONE'S FATHER.
?!

URHI SHALMA IS A EUNUCH?!
...A EUNUCH IS CERTAINLY NOT CAPABLE OF REPRODUCING. IT MAKES THEM "SAFE" FOR SERVICE IN TEMPLES AND HAREMS...
THAT'S A POLITE WAY OF PUTTING IT!
GUESS THAT SETTLES IT, HUH?
HUH?
...BECAUSE THEY NO LONGER HAVE THE... EQUIPMENT... REQUIRED TO HAVE CONGRESS WITH WOMEN.
OH... ER... YES, MA'AM...

PRINCE JUDA *IS* A LEGITIMATE HEIR TO THE THRONE!
IN ANY EVENT, THAT TORPEDOES THE RUMORS!